Continue

Type: regulatory sign Color: black and white Shape: rectangle Location: prior to intersections What does a Turn Left or Right sign mean? The Turn Left or Right is a regulatory sign. It tells drivers that traveling straight is forbidden, and only left and right turns are allowed from this lane. What type of sign is a Turn Left or Right sign? The Turn Left or Right sign is a regulatory sign. The sign controls traffic and sets limits. What are the color(s) of a Turn Left or Right sign? The Turn Left or Right sign is black and white. It has a white background with black borders and graphics. What shape are Turn Left or Right road signs? Turn Left or Rights signs are in the shape of a vertical rectangle, with black graphics. Where are Turn Left or Right signs commonly placed? Turn Left or Right signs are commonly installed before intersections where road users can move their vehicle only in the direction indicated for their traffic lane. When you see a TURN LEFT OR RIGHT sign while driving, you must be aware that: • traveling straight is forbidden • only right and left turns are allowed from the lane displaying this sign Test Your Knowledge of Road Signs Take a Free Road Signs Practice Test Related Road Signs Studying for Your DMV Test?Get a Pass Guarantee Test Your Knowledge of Traffic Signs Take a Road Signs Test Now Type: warning sign Color: yellow and black Shape: diamond-shaped Location: before a narrow bridge What does a Narrow Bridge warning sign mean? A Narrow Bridge sign warns road users that the bridge or overpass ahead is wide enough to accommodate two lanes of traffic, but with very little clearance. Slow down, stay in your lane and watch out for oncoming vehicles. What type of sign is a Narrow Bridge sign? A Narrow Bridge Ahead sign is a warning sign. The sign warns road users about a road condition requiring special attention. What are the colors of a Narrow Bridge Ahead sign? Narrow Bridge signs have a yellow background and black graphics. What shape are Narrow Bridge signs? Narrow Bridge Ahead signs are in the shape of a diamond, and have a narrow bridge design printed in the center. An alternative version of the sign has the words "NARROW BRIDGE" in black lettering. Where are Narrow Bridge signs commonly installed? Narrow Bridge signs are installed before bridges that are wide enough to accommodate two lanes of traffic, but with very little clearance. When you see a Narrow Bridge warning sign while driving, you should: • slow down before entering the narrow bridge • stay in your lane • watch out for oncoming traffic Test Your Knowledge of Road Signs Take a Free Road Signs Practice Test Related Road Signs Studying for Your DMV Test?Get a Pass Guarantee Test Your Knowledge of Traffic Signs Take a Road Signs Test Now Type: regulatory sign Color: black and white Shape: rectangle Location: end of no-passing zones What do Pass With Care signs mean? Pass With Care signs are posted at the end of no-passing zones. These signs tell drivers that they can now pass other vehicles, provided they can do so safely. Remember to always use caution when passing other vehicles. What type of sign is a Pass With Care sign? A Pass With Care sign is a regulatory sign. Regulatory signs control traffic, set limits or give commands. What are the colors of a Pass With Care sign? A Pass With Care sign is black and white. The sign has a white background with black lettering. What shape are Pass With Care signs? Pass With Care signs are in the shape of a vertical rectangle. These signs have a black border, and the words "PASS WITH CARE" written in black lettering. Where are Pass With Care signs commonly posted? Pass With Care signs are posted at the end of no-passing zones to remind drivers that passing is now allowed. When you see a PASS WITH CARE sign while driving: • be aware that you can now pass other vehicles, if it is safe to do so • always use caution when passing Test Your Knowledge of Road Signs Take a Free Road Signs Practice Test Related Road Signs Studying for Your DMV Test?Get a Pass Guarantee Test Your Knowledge of Traffic Signs Take a Road Signs Test Now Want to give your brand videos a cinematic edge? Join our visual experts and special guests for an info-packed hour of insights to elevate your next video project. Tune in on June 24 at 11am ET.Register NowEnjoy sharper detail, more accurate color, lifelike lighting, believable backgrounds, and more with our new model update. Your generated images will be more polished than ever.See What's NewExplore how consumers want to see climate stories told today, and what that means for your visuals.Download Our Latest VisualGPS ReportWant to give your brand videos a cinematic edge? Join our visual experts and special guests for an info-packed hour of insights to elevate your next video project. Tune in on June 24 at 11am ET.Register NowEnjoy sharper detail, more accurate color, lifelike lighting, believable backgrounds, and more with our new model update. Your generated images will be more polished than ever.See What's NewExplore how consumers want to see climate stories told today, and what that means for your visuals.Download Our Latest VisualGPS ReportWant to give your brand videos a cinematic edge? Join our visual experts and special guests for an info-packed hour of insights to elevate your next video project. Tune in on June 24 at 11am ET.Register NowEnjoy sharper detail, more accurate color, lifelike lighting, believable backgrounds, and more with our new model update. Your generated images will be more polished than ever.See What's NewExplore how consumers want to see climate stories told today, and what that means for your visuals.Download Our Latest VisualGPS Report Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Type: regulatory sign Color: black and white Shape: rectangle Location: At the side of the road. Do Not Pass signs are posted before stretches of road where it’s illegal to pass. What does a Do Not Pass sign mean? A Do Not Pass sign tells drivers where passing is not permitted. The sign indicates that drivers must not overtake other vehicles in the area, regardless of how safe they may feel it is to do so. Do Not Pass signs are installed on unsafe stretches of road to protect drivers from hazards such as hidden driveways, intersections, hills and curves, and make passing in those areas illegal. Do Not Pass signs work in conjunction with No-Passing Zone signs, which mark the beginning of an area where drivers cannot pass. A Do Not Pass sign, along with pavement markings, indicates that drivers must stay on the right side of the road and not pass other vehicles. What type of sign is a Do Not Pass sign? A Do Not Pass sign is a regulatory sign (it tells drivers not to do something). What color(s) is the Do Not Pass sign? The Do Not Pass sign is black and white (white background with a black border and lettering). What shape are Do Not Pass road signs? Do Not Pass signs are in the shape of a rectangle with longer vertical sides, and have the words DO NOT PASS printed in the center. Where are Do Not Pass signs commonly placed? DO NOT PASS signs are installed before stretches of road where passing is not permitted. When you see a Do Not Pass Sign while driving: • stay on the right side of the road • do NOT pass other vehicles, regardless of how safe you may feel it is to do so. Passing in this area is illegal Test Your Knowledge of Road Signs Take a Free Road Signs Practice Test Related Road Signs Studying for Your DMV Test?Get a Pass Guarantee Test Your Knowledge of Traffic Signs Take a Road Signs Test Now Have you ever been confused by the meaning of a roadway sign or wondered about the significance of its color and shape? Understanding the meanings of traffic signs is crucial for drivers to ensure safety. To make it easy for people to understand roadway sign meanings, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) established a universal set of traffic sign guidelines. These guidelines help drivers quickly and accurately interpret road signs, even at high speeds. This is especially important considering language barriers and vision deficiencies that can complicate the interpretation of these important signs. To overcome these challenges, the DOT Federal Highway Administration designates symbols for traffic signs instead of words. Pictograms and symbols are easier to recognize and understand, and they can bridge the language gap. Symbols are becoming the standard for traffic control signs worldwide. Understanding the meanings of roadway signs can be as simple as recognizing the colors, shapes and symbols on the sign. The colors of road signs play a critical role in conveying information. For example, red is used for stop, yield and prohibition signs, while yellow is used for general caution. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) outlines road sign color standards, ensuring consistency throughout U.S. roadways. Blue: Indicates road user services, tourist information, and evacuation routes Brown: Shows guidance to sites of public recreation or cultural interest Coral: Incident management signs Fluorescent Yellow/Green: Indicates pedestrian crossings and school zones Green: Shows permitted vehicle movements or directional guidance Orange: Gives warning and guidance in roadway work zones Red: Usually means stop. Red is limited to stop, yield and prohibition signs White: Indicates a regulatory sign, such as a speed limit Yellow: Conveys a general caution message Example Sign Colors. (Click to View Sign) The shape of a sign can provide a clue about its message even before you can read the content. Different types of signs have different shapes. An octagon means stop. An upside-down triangle means yield. A diamond shape warns of possible hazards ahead. Pentagon-shaped signs indicate a school zone. Round signs indicate railroad crossings. While these color and shape rules generally apply, there are some exceptions based on the specific type of sign. For example, the railroad crossbuck sign is not circular, but its meaning is still clear. In addition to color and shape, roadway signs must also meet specific size and material requirements set by the MUTCD. This ensures consistency and visibility. Retroreflective materials or lighting help illuminate signs that need to be visible at night. Despite these standards, there are instances where custom traffic signs are necessary to convey unique messages effectively. Custom signs are often found in parking areas where vehicle control is essential. Now that you know the basics of traffic sign meanings, let’s look at the symbols found on road signs. As with sign colors, the Federal Highway Administration dictates road sign symbols. Flagger AheadThis symbol indicates the presence of workers in the vicinity. It is primarily used in temporary traffic control settings such as construction zones. No Left TurnThis symbol shows drivers that left turns are not allowed, providing guidelines and restrictions for compliance with traffic laws. Pedestrian CrossingThis symbol signifies the potential presence of pedestrians crossing the road, ensuring the safe flow of traffic at designated locations. Object MarkerReflective diagonal yellow-and-black stripes indicate an obstruction or object in the roadway, such as a support pillar under a bridge, maintaining safety standards as per MUTCD guidelines. These are just a few examples of traffic control signs and their meanings. Understanding traffic signs is crucial for every driver to ensure safety on the road. Learn more about MUTCD-approved roadway signs and their meanings with the resources below. Remember, interpreting road signs correctly can help prevent accidents and keep everyone safe on the road. Drive safely and always pay attention to road signs! Regulatory signs tell drivers what they must do, or must not do, according to the law. They give information about rules for traffic direction, speed, lane use, stopping, yielding, turning, parking, and other special situations. Drivers must obey the instructions on regulatory signs. If they don’t, they are breaking the law, and could be fined and receive points on their driving record. Drivers who disobey the messages on regulatory signs also risk their safety and the safety of others. Regulatory signs are typically white, red, or black with black, white or red letters or symbols. They are usually square or rectangular, but some have a special shape. Some regulatory signs have a red circle with a red slash over a symbol. These signs prohibit certain actions, and the symbol inside the circle tells drivers what is prohibited. Type: regulatory sign Color: red and white Shape: square Location: at the beginning of one-way streets and ramps What does a Do Not Enter Sign mean? DO NOT ENTER signs are usually installed at the beginning of one-way streets and ramps, often accompanied by a 'Wrong Way' sign. A Do Not Enter sign indicates that drivers are often going to encounter opposing traffic (traffic moving toward them, often at a high speed) if they enter contrary to the sign. The Do Not Enter sign is a regulatory sign. It prohibits drivers from entering the one-way street or ramp where the sign is installed. What type of sign is a Do Not Enter sign? A Do Not Enter sign is a regulatory signs (it tells drivers not to do something). What are the colors of a Do Not Enter sign? A Do Not Enter sign is red and white. It consists of a square white background featuring a red circle with a horizontal white line in the center and the words "DO NOT ENTER" in white text. Do Not Enter signs are in the shape of a square. They show a red circle containing a white horizontal bar in the middle, and the words "DO NOT ENTER" written in white. Where are Do Not Enter signs commonly placed? DO NOT ENTER signs are usually installed at the beginning of one-way streets, ramps and crossovers on divided roadways. When you see a Do Not Enter sign while driving: • do NOT enter the one-way street or ramp where the sign is installed • if you drive past the sign, you are going in the wrong direction! You could get into a head-on collision with vehicles headed your way. Cautiously turn around. Test Your Knowledge of Road Signs Take a Free Road Signs Practice Test Related Road Signs Studying for Your DMV Test?Get a Pass Guarantee Test Your Knowledge of Traffic Signs Take a Road Signs Test Now Type: warning sign Color: yellow and black Shape: diamond-shaped Location: before bumps in the road What does a Bump sign mean? A Bump sign warns drivers that there is a bump up ahead on the road. The sharp rise in the roadway could cause you to lose control of your vehicle. As you approach the bump, reduce your speed and keep both hands on the steering wheel. What type of sign is a Bump sign? The Bump sign is a warning sign. It warns motorists about a road condition requiring special attention. What are the colors of a Bump sign? Bump signs are yellow with black lettering. What shape are Bump signs? Bump signs are in the shape of a diamond, with a black border and the word BUMP printed in the center. Where are Bump signs posted? Bump signs are usually posted before a sharp rise (bump) in the roadway. When you see a BUMP sign while driving, you should: • be aware that there is a bump up ahead on the road, which could cause you to lose control of your vehicle • reduce your speed • make sure to have both hands on the steering wheel as you approach the bump Test Your Knowledge of Road Signs Take a Free Road Signs Practice Test Related Road Signs Studying for Your DMV Test?Get a Pass Guarantee Test Your Knowledge of Traffic Signs Take a Road Signs Test Now As drivers, especially those new to the big open road, road signs are going to be one of the most prevalent things you’ll need to pay attention to while driving – that is, of course, second to the other drivers on the road with you. Defensive driving skills are always the most important. While those of us who’ve been driving for a while have figured out and learned what all the signs we see mean, the number of signs used can be a bit intimidating for a new driver. Now, you might have already learned about them in your driver’s education courses, but with the number of signs you need to memorize, I doubt that you can keep everything stored in your memory. To help you out, we’ve taken it upon ourselves to list them all here. We’ll also add an in-depth description of their meaning to provide easy access for those wanting to study up on them a bit more. Need To Take An Online Traffic School Course? Check Out The Highest Rated Online Driver’s Ed Program Here! Before we go into every road sign, let’s have a quick review of its importance. Why do we have to go through each of them in the first place? Road signs are there to serve as a warning to all road users to ensure they are safe from potential driving hazards and situations. They also help regulate the flow of traffic among vehicles, as well as other road users – pedestrians and cyclists, for example. You can even include animals here. Are you curious to know who decides to put up these signs? Each state municipality will first commission an engineer This engineer will then study the location where the sign is to be placed and gauge its usefulness in that particular location. Once the study has concluded and the need for the sign is documented, it needs to be authorized by the local government. So yeah, it’s not that simple to put up those signs. There are different roads and traffic signs that serve their purposes. Let’s refresh our memories and learn all about them once again! Every road sign has a specific color associated with it. The color of road signs can immediately tell you what they are about. Here are the colors you may be asked about during your written driving exam: Red – Signs which are red in color refer to situations where you must stop or yield. Obviously, stop signs and yield signs use the color red, but other signs such as do not enter and wrong way signs can also use red coloring. Other examples of road signs using red include no u-turn signs, no turn on red signs, and sometimes no parking signs. Green – Green road signs are direction signs. This color is used for things like street signs (the names of streets), exit signs, mile markers, and signs showing you directions to a certain city or the distance to a specific place. Blue – Signs that are blue in color are not regulatory signs. Instead, they display services for travelers. These signs are normally found on expressways and highways, directing motorists to where they can find places such as rest areas, tourist sites, hospitals, hotels, gas stations, restaurants, campgrounds, picnic areas, and other services commonly used by motorists. Yellow – Yellow road signs are general warning signs to indicate potential hazards or changing road conditions ahead. For example, road signs that use the color Yellow may warn you that there is a narrow bridge ahead, a railroad crossing, a no-passing zone, curves in the roadway, a merge point, pedestrian crossing, a dead-end, an uneven surface, a hidden cross street, or any other number of potential hazards. Fluorescent Yellow/Green – This color is relatively new on our roadways, but it is used for signs relating to pedestrians, bicycles, and school warning signs. They are increasingly being used for some constructions signs as well. This color is used because it is easier to see during foggy or rainy weather. Orange – Orange road signs are usually temporary signs relating to road work, temporary traffic control, and maintenance warnings. When you see orange road signs, be sure to watch for workers on or near the roadway. Brown – Similar to blue road signs, brown signs are not regulatory signs. These signs indicate areas of recreation and cultural points of interest. Brown road signs will mark or give directions towards historical sites, parks, picnic areas, and other recreational areas. Similar to different road sign colors, you can also tell what a road sign means by looking at its shape. Here are the standard shapes of road signs, along with what they mean: Octagon – A road sign in the shape of an octagon will always be a stop sign. Come to a full stop at an intersection controlled by this sign. Stop at the marked stop line or before entering the crosswalk or before your vehicle enters the intersection. Let other vehicles or pedestrians pass if they are in your path. Equilateral Triangle – This sign shape is used for yield signs. Yield the right of way. Slow down and let vehicles crossing your path go by. If necessary, stop before going ahead. If pedestrians are in or about to enter the crosswalk, stop until they have crossed the roadway, then proceed. Pennant – This sign will be on the left-hand side of the road or highway. It warns you of a no-passing zone. Diamond – Diamond shaped signs are used as warning signs. These signs alert you to special road hazards. Words or pictures on the sign will show you why you need to slow down or use extra caution. Rectangle – These will be regulatory or guide signs. Vertical signs indicate what you should or should not do, such as speed limit signs. Horizontal signs give directions or information about services drivers may want. Pentagon – A road sign in the shape of a pentagon will refer to a school crossing or school zone. The color of the sign may be yellow or florescent yellow/green. Crossbuck – All railroad crossing signs are this shape and are placed at each crossing. Sometimes there is a number under the crossbuck which will show you how many sets of tracks there are. Circle – This sign shape indicates a railroad crossing is ahead. Let’s get into further detail about what standard regulatory signs are. You’ll see all over the road, pretty much no matter where you are. They include: Stop – This sign, as you might have guessed, means you need to stop wherever you see one. They are almost always accompanied by a line across the road at which you should stop, and most areas require you come to a full and complete stop before proceeding. Yield – This sign is meant to alert you to any upcoming hazards, road conditions, or oncoming traffic (there are signs which signal for you to yield prior to merging to avoid accidents). It means slow down, defer to oncoming traffic, stop if necessary, and proceed when it’s safe to do so. A flashing yellow light at an intersection serves for this purpose as well. These signs are designed to indicate the speed at which it is appropriate to go on a certain road. There are some that indicate a single speed, and some that indicate two speeds: the maximum allowed on a road, and the minimum allowed on a road. These may be changed under certain circumstances, such as road work or similar, and should be followed to maintain safety for all using the road. Speed Limit – Indicates the maximum speed on a road for standard vehicles. This maximum speed indicates the safest maximum speed during ideal driving conditions. Minimum Speed – Usually seen on highways and expressways, this sign indicates the minimum allowable speed during regularly flowing traffic. Truck Speed – On some roadways, larger vehicles must abide by different speed limits. This sign indicates the maximum speed for larger trucks and vehicles. Combination Speed – Indicates both the maximum and minimum speed for all vehicles on the road; most often used on highways and interstates to avoid collisions. Just as the road itself is painted to indicate turning lanes and the like, there are signs to indicate where you can and can’t turn, u-turn, take a left turn into oncoming traffic, etc. These come in the form of: No Right Turn – This sign is used to indicate a street that you can not turn right onto. Most often, you will see these in downtown areas. No Left Turn – This sign is used to indicate a street that you can’t turn left onto. Again, most often seen in downtown areas. No U-Turn – This indicates that a U-turn is not legal in an area where this sign is posted. Typically, it is because the area has too much traffic (for instance, oncoming traffic as well as traffic coming out of road-side shopping centers, etc.) to safely allow a U-turn. Left Turn Only and Right Turn Only – These will usually be paired with the no-turn equivalent of its opposite sign. These signs will indicate moves a driver can make on any particular road, and for some, also indicate when to start a movement – usually in the case of roundabouts, where a certain lane can take you left or right. They are: Do Not Pass – Indicates, as you might have guessed, that you can’t pass in an area where this is posted. Pass With Care – This one indicates, as you probably guessed that it is an area where it’s safe to pass as long as you use common sense and caution. Keep Right – This one means you should keep right. It is usually seen in areas where a divided median begins, or in construction areas. Keep Left – The same as keep right, only now it’s left. These signs will all indicate that you’re basically doing it wrong, or that you shouldn’t be where you are right now, if you’re where you shouldn’t be. Allow me to explain: Do Not Enter – If you see this sign, it means you don’t belong there, and should probably stay out. Usually, it’ll be posted at the beginning of an exit that is meant to come out where you’re trying to go in but can also be used for other areas as well. Wrong Way – Much like the ‘Do Not Enter’ sign, it indicates that you’re where you shouldn’t be. For example, you’ll see this sign posted on one-way roads facing away from flowing traffic. That way, if someone drives down a one-way road the wrong way, they will see this sign. No Parking – This one means you can’t park wherever it is. Some no parking signs can be a bit confusing with different days and times shown. Be sure to read them carefully. Emergency Vehicle Parking Only & Fire Lane – This sign will indicate that only emergency vehicles such as police vehicles, ambulances, and firetrucks can park in the area. Road signs are the way the city, construction workers, and other people communicate with drivers. Knowing what these signs are and what they mean is crucial to being a good driver. Here is an overview of important road signs: Road signs are color-coded as a way to help drivers understand what topic is being communicated. Here is a guide to the colors: Red: Stopping or dangerBlack And White: Regulations and lawsYellow: WarningsGreen: Direction or placeBlue: Motorist services such as gas, food, or hotelsBrown: Recreational, historical, or scenic sites.Orange: Construction or road maintenance Each color of the sign has a different variety of instructions. Here are how to follow the common signs for each color: Stop sign: You must always stop at a stop sign. If there is a line painted on the roadway, you must stop before the line. Some stop signs will also have a smaller sign saying if it is a two way or an all way stop. You should completely stop your vehicle for at least two seconds, even if the intersection is clear. Yield: A yield sign means you need to slow down and yield to any oncoming or cross traffic. Yield signs do not require that you come to a complete stop. Instead, it indicates that you must give the right of way. So, if you approach a yield sign and there is cross traffic, you must stop until the roadway is clear. Do Not Enter: A do not enter sign means that traffic cannot drive on that road. It usually signals an exit or a one way road. Even though this sign is pretty clear, many people who are lost and aren’t familiar with the area tend to miss these signs and wind up the wrong way on a one-way road. Make sure you watch for these signs, especially in major cities with one-way streets. No Parking: You cannot park your vehicle in the area designated by this sign. If you see a no parking sign, that doesn’t mean you can “just run in for a few minutes” or leave your hazard lights on. Many no parking signs will post certain hours that you may or may not park in a given location, so make sure you pay attention to the timeframes parking is allowed. VIDEO: Why Are Stop Signs Red? Speed Limit: Speed limit signs will post the maximum allowable speed on any given stretch of roadway. Some speed limit signs, especially those on highways, will post minimum speed limits in addition to maximum limits. Legally, there is no margin of error with speed limits. The maximum posted speed is the fastest you are allowed to go and even going 1mph over the limit can get you a ticket. One Way: One way signs denote that the traffic only moves in one direction on that roadway. One way signs also usually include an arrow showing the direction of the traffic. Many drivers who are new to driving in large cities fail to recognize these signs as they don’t have any one-way roads where they live. So, anytime you visit a new area, pay extra attention to make sure you’re not turning the wrong way on a one-way-road. Do Not Pass: Do not pass signs mean that on that particular road you cannot pass the driver ahead of you. These signs are generally posted on two lane roadways where the oncoming lane can also be used as a passing lane. The do not pass sign indicates you are beginning a stretch of road where you are prohibited from using the oncoming lane as a passing lane. These signs can also be seen on multi-lane roadways, especially in areas where lanes are about to shift or merge. No Turn: No turn signs will tell you when you cannot make a left turn, right turn, or u-turn. These are typically seen at controlled intersections. Some stoplights are designed to only control cross traffic but does not allow for any turns left or right. These signs can also be seen frequently in construction zones where roads are temporarily closed or turns are otherwise prohibited. Must Turn: Must turn signals tell you that if you are in a particular lane you must turn a certain direction. Often times on multi-lane roadways, one of the outer lanes will turn into a right or left turn only lane. These signs will help warn you and give you enough time to get into a non-turning lane if needed. Road Closed: Road closed signs mean the road is closed to through traffic and you cannot drive there. These signs may be placed on roadways that are permanently closed or temporarily closed. Some roads are closed temporarily due to construction, flooding, major accidents, fires, snow & ice, and a slew of other possible reasons. VIDEO: How Are Speed Limits Determined? Median Warning: These signs let you know there is a median ahead and where you should drive to avoid them. This is most often seen in areas where a 2 or 4 lane road turns into a divided highway. Sometimes you will need to briefly “swerve” to one direction as the roadway splits. These warning signs give you advance notice of the maneuver, especially for when driving conditions are poor. Stop Ahead: A stop ahead sign warns if there is a stop sign or a stop light coming up so you are prepared to stop. Many stop signs are located around curves and/or over hills and can’t be seen quickly enough to come to a safe and controlled stop. These signs allow you to begin slowing down even before you can see the stop sign. Coming to a controlled and smooth stop will help to reduce wear and tear on your vehicle as well as reduce chances of accidents, especially rear-end collisions. Pedestrian Crossing: Pedestrian crossings mean that there is an area where pedestrians frequently cross the road. Generally pedestrians have the right-of-way in a crosswalk, so if you are able to safely do so, be sure to slow or stop to allow the pedestrian to cross the roadway. Nearly 5,000 pedestrians are killed annually due to car vs. pedestrian strikes and many more are injured after being hit by a vehicle. Two Way Traffic: This sign means you are on a two way road without a barrier, so stay in your lane. This sign is most frequently seen after a divided highway or multi-lane roadway merges into a two lane road with opposite vehicle travel in each lane. It can be especially difficult at night to realize that a divided highway with passing lane has reduced to just one lane in each direction. Railroad: Most railroad crossings will have a warning sign placed about 500ft before the crossing. This warning sign is meant to give you prior warning that a rail crossing is up ahead. Many rail crossings are very bumpy and can cause a loss of control, so prepare for a possible jolt. This is also the time you’ll want to look, listen, and live! Don’t rely on railroad crossing signals to be functioning properly. They can and do fail, so clear the crossing yourself before you cross. Animal Crossing: Animal crossing signs signal that there is a high volume of animals in the area and that you should be ready for them to cross the road. Typically the sign will show a picture of the type of animal that is most commonly seen in the area. These signs are normally posted at known animal migration points and areas of roadways where animals are more likely to cross. VIDEO: Do Pedestrians ALWAYS Have The Right Of Way? Mile Marker: Mile markers are normally only found on interstates and highways, but these signs can be seen on any roadway from congested city streets to, more commonly, rural single lane roadways. Most drivers pay no attention to these seemingly insignificant signs, but they are very useful during emergencies so you can quickly tell a 9-1-1 dispatcher exactly where you are. Mile markers on Interstates will start with Mile Marker 1 on the East side and continue up for every mile across the state. On the other hand, Mile markers for North/South roads will begin with Mile Marker 1 on the North end of the state and count each mile to the south. Exit Sign: On highways, expressways, and other roadways with exit ramps, you will see an exit sign. Exit signs are required on the entire U.S. interstate system. In most states, exit signs will also show a number. This number almost always correlates with the nearest mile marker, but there are a few states that simply list exit numbers in numerical order no matter what mile marker it is near. Street Sign: In some areas, street signs can be shown in colors other than green. For example, some city, state, and national park roadways might be shown in a brown color. Other roads which have been renamed in someones honor could be a different color as well. However, the vast majority of street signs will show the name of the roadway in green and white. Freeway Interchange: Freeway interchange signs help you choose the proper lane before entering an area where freeways come together. It’s important to pay attention to these signs as they will indicate in advance which lane you will need to enter in order to stay on your existing freeway or change to a new one. Local Information: Information signs are usually found on freeways and highways. They are normally placed before an exit to show what services are available. These signs can tell motorists if there is lodging, gas stations, food, hospitals, airports, and other services. Some local information signs will also give specific names of service stations, restaurants, etc. At the end of an off-ramp, you will normally see blue signs with arrows pointing in the direction of where you can find those services. Emergency Telephone: While not as common since the advent of cell phones, many rural roadways, highways, and expressways have emergency telephones on the side of the roadway. These phones are still extremely important for those driving in very rural areas where cell phone reception is minimal. Emergency phones are not to be confused with calling 9-1-1. You can use an emergency phone for non-emergency situations such as if you ran out of gas and need assistance. If you do need to use an emergency phone, be sure to pull as far off the roadway as possible and activate your 4-way flashers. Handicapped Parking: Handicapped parking can only be used by obtaining a permit. Handicap parking areas are marked with blue signs and if a proper permit is not displayed, you can be ticketed. And let’s be real here... parking in a handicap area just makes you an inconsiderate person! Yes, it can get frustrating if you can’t find a close parking spot, but please don’t be “that guy” and park in a handicap zone! Rest Area: Rest areas can be found on any roadway, but they are most common on the U.S. interstate system. Many rural roadways that go long distances without any services will have rest areas as well. Rest areas vary greatly in quality and the services available will vary as well. Some rest areas have full service restaurants and gift shops while others will simply be a parking lot without any bathrooms. Most rest areas that provide no services, like bathrooms, will give notice on the sign. Scenic Overlook: Unlike rest areas, scenic overlooks generally do not provide any services and are only parking lots. What they do provide are some of the most beautiful views in the country. Our nations roadways cut through all sorts of terrain from deserts to mountains to coastal waters and vast open plains. If you’re taking a road trip, make sure you leave enough time to check out these scenic overlook areas. In the vast majority of cases, you’ll be glad you did (and your legs could use a stretch anyway!). Historical Site: While America is a rather new country compared to the rest of the world, we still have our fair share of historic events. Historical sites can range from a single tree that has some historical significants all the way up to full fledged museums, ghost towns, monuments, and a whole slew of other historical markers. Many of these historical sites are ones you would never know about and most, even the seemingly insignificant ones, are more interesting than you might think. National Parks & Public Recreation Areas: The United States is home to some of the most beautiful national parks in the world and many of our countries roadways go right through them, offering amazing experiences for those choosing to make some stops and literally smell the roses. When entering a national park, you will see a brown sign indicating the national park you are entering. You will also see signs pointing to national parks that are nearby. Brown signs will also indicate recreation areas such as boat launches and beaches. Road Work & Construction Zones: Road work ahead signals that you are about to enter an area with construction. These signs usually state the distance before you reach the road work. Major roadwork areas, especially on highways, may be posted 10 or more miles in advance and continue warning you as you get closer. Small construction jobs and more temporary construction areas may give less than one mile notice. Make sure you watch for speed limit reductions as fines are usually doubled in construction zones with very heavy enforcement. Dozens of roadway workers die each year because vehicles hit them, so slow down and pay close attention. Orange signs will continue to be posted to give you instructions as you proceed through the construction zone. Detour: Roadways need a lot of repair and sometimes they need to be closed for major repairs. Roads can also be closed due to special events such as parades. In most cases, a “detour route” will be set up. Pay attention along your route as orange signs will point you in the right direction and the best way to get around the detour. Driving on a closed road is a huge fine and very dangerous, so don’t do it! Road Closed: Unlike detour signs, a road closed sign does not give you an alternate route to take. The road is simply closed and you are left to figure out a new way to go on your own. Some signs will say “road closed to thru traffic” which means the road is closed unless you live on that road or you are going to a business that can only be accessed on the closed road. Top 4 Best Online Driver’s Ed Courses Streamlining the flow of traffic and effective communication with the traffic environment is possible with standard colors and shapes of signboards. Colors can tell you as much about the sign’s message as the entire sign itself. Every color used on a sign has a meaning attached to it and tells the driver what to expect ahead. Following are the different colors used in signs to convey different messages to motorists. 1. Red: The color red is used for signs that tell the motorists to stop or yield. The sign notifies the driver to stop and proceed when it is safe. The rationale of a STOP sign is to limit the driver from entering a crosswalk or intersection, one way and prohibited streets etc. accidentally or at high speed. 2. Green: Green gives highway directions and guides through highway interchanges and tells you how far a place is from where you are. 3. Yellow: A general warning or caution is always depicted through this color. 4. Black / white: This color indicates enforceable laws, regulations, and ordinances. 5. Blue: Blue signs list motorist services. These signs guide you to places such as hotels, gas stations, hospitals, eating places, picnic and campgrounds etc. 6. Orange: At time of construction and work in progress, the work area is protected from traffic by orange warning signs and devices. 7. Brown: Brown color directs you to public recreational areas, national parks, historic points of interest and scenic sites. 8. Fluorescent yellow-green: General warning or caution is demonstrated with fluorescent yellow-green color. The signs using this new color are much easier to see in low light, fog and rain. It shows pedestrian warning, bicycle warning, playground warning, school bus and school warning. 9. Red and White with red letters: Yield signs are red and white in color with red letters. This color combination alerts the drivers of the oncoming hazards on the road. It instructs the driver to slow down, stop when necessary, and proceed safely and be aware of the oncoming traffic. 10. Flashing yellow light: It has the same meaning as a yield sign. This tells the driver should be cautious while passing the road or intersection. 11. Circular red arrow: It forbids moving in the direction where the arrow points. Turning on a red arrow is not allowed. 12. Circular yellow arrow: This indicates that the driver should prepare to stop at the stop line and thus slow down. Motorists should not increase the speed to beat the red arrow that comes next. 13. Circular green arrow: It indicates the right of way to progress through the turn. Before moving ahead, drivers should yield for other vehicle and pedestrians who are still at the intersection. Shapes can also help identify the signboards: Octagon: An octagon illustrates a STOP sign. Pentagon: A school sign is demonstrated by a pentagon. Published by admin on April 29, 2020 Ever wonder the differences in sign colors? Each sign on the road has different meanings to them and Students at Legacy Driving Academy learn the meaning of the traffic signs and their colors they will come across on the road. These include Stop Signs, Wrong Way, Yield and Do Not Enter signs. These signs almost always mean that you will be making a complete stop in some fashion. Most white road signs denote a speed limits, turn lanes, One Way Roads. They can also tell a driver whether they can make a U Turn in from their lane. Although in Phoenix if a sign does not tell you “No U Turn” you can legally make a U Turn as long as safe without issue. An orange road sign alerts the driver that there is construction or potential danger ahead. Also, to remain cautious and drive slow as needed or denoted to pass through. These signs are vivid orange color with black symbols or black text. However, speeds are not required to change unless a sign mentions that there is a speed change. Yet a speed change is recommended to keep the driver and workers safe. A green sign is there to tell you where you need to be to get where you are going. These signs help the driver get to the destination where they need to go. Green signs on the freeway tell the driver what the next three exits are. Also, green signs on the highway can tell the driver how far away the next city so they can prepare for how they plan to proceed. Yellow signs are Warning Signs of possible danger ahead; generally shaped like a diamond. Included in these warnings are two way traffic, cattle ahead, pedestrians and merging. The importance of understanding these drastic differences in warnings can show a driver warnings on the road. A rail road crossing sign is another example of a yellow warning sign. Blue road signs are motorists service guidance signs that tell the driver about services along the road. They can signify where there are rest services, a call box (California), food, fuel and hospital. Signs that have a green fluorescence have an extreme emphasis of school, bicycle or pedestrian crossing. Included are playgrounds and school bus stop ahead. Brown road signs show a driver areas of public recreation also included are of cultural and historical significance. National monuments and hiking trails are included in these colored signs. Signs that are pink indicate that there is an unplanned incident scene ahead and are often included with flares on the road if necessary. The importance of a pink road sign is to prepare yourself for almost anything. The traffic sign colors and what they mean are there to help ease the driver into what they are seeing. Color coordinating and their shapes makes them easier to identify and remember what they are are telling the driver. Type: warning sign Color: yellow and black Shape: diamond-shaped Location: before a dip in the road What does a DIP warning sign mean? The DIP sign is used to warn drivers that there is a low place in the road ahead. Slow your vehicle so your shock absorbers aren't damaged. Other possible negative consequences of driving through a dip without slowing down include loss of steering control. Driving through a dip at a regular speed when it's raining or just after rain may cause hydroplaning, and you could lose control of your vehicle. Slow down and be ready to stop and turn around if the dip is filled with water. What type of sign is a DIP sign? The DIP sign is a warning sign. The sign warns drivers about a road condition requiring special attention. What color(s) are on a DIP sign? DIP signs are yellow with black lettering. What shape are DIP signs? DIP signs are shaped like a diamond, with black borders and the word "DIP" printed in the center. Where are DIP traffic signs commonly installed? DIP warning signs are installed on the side of the road to warn drivers of a sharp depression in the road ahead. When you see a DIP sign while driving, you should: • be aware that there is a dip in the road ahead • slow down • use extra caution when it's raining or just after the rain • be prepared to stop and turn around if the dip is filled with water Test Your Knowledge of Road Signs Take a Free Road Signs Practice Test Related Road Signs Studying for Your DMV Test?Get a Pass Guarantee Test Your Knowledge of Traffic Signs Take a Road Signs Test Now Type: regulatory sign Color: black and white Shape: rectangle Location: before traffic islands or highway dividers What does a Keep Right sign mean? A Keep Right sign marks a highway divider or a traffic island and tells drivers that they must stay to the right of the obstacle. On highways, Keep Right signs may be accompanied by Divided Highway Begins warning signs. If you see a Keep Right sign while driving, you must keep to the right of the obstacle. What type of sign is a Keep Right sign? A Keep Right sign is a regulatory sign. The sign controls traffic and gives commands. What color(s) is a Keep Right sign? A Keep Right sign is black and white. It has a white background with black borders, graphics and lettering. What shape is a Keep Right road sign? A Keep Right sign is in the shape of a vertical rectangle, with black graphics and lettering. The sign may vary from state to state. In some states, the sign shows an arrow pointing to the right with the words "KEEP RIGHT", while in other states the sign has symbols that represent the flow of traffic keeping to the right of a highway divider. Where are Keep Right signs commonly placed? Keep Right signs are placed before highway dividers or traffic islands to warn drivers that they must stay to the right of the obstacle. Keep Right Sign - What To Do If you see a KEEP RIGHT sign while driving, you must keep to the right of the obstacle. Test Your Knowledge of Road Signs Take a Free Road Signs Practice Test Related Road Signs Studying for Your DMV Test?Get a Pass Guarantee Test Your Knowledge of Traffic Signs Take a Road Signs Test Now Not Sure You Will Pass?Get a Pass Guarantee 1. This sign is a: regulatory sign. stop sign. guide sign. warning sign. 2. Which sign has white letters on a red background? Stop School zone Yield Speed limit 3. This sign warns drivers that: there is a winding road ahead. There is a low place in the road ahead. there is a double curve ahead. the highway ahead is divided into two one-way roadways. Drivers should keep to the right. 4. What message is found on pennant shaped signs? Traffic merging from the right. No passing zone. Drive with caution: the road ahead turns right. Right turns only. 5. This sign is a warning that you are approaching: a dead-end street. a crosswalk. an intersection. a railroad crossing. 6. This sign means: Sharp right turn ahead. Warning: U-turn ahead. Right turns not allowed. Hairpin corner ahead. 7. When they approach this sign, drivers must: slow down and watch for children crossing the road. obey signals from crossing guards. stop if necessary. All of the above. 8. The octagonal shape is used: to warn drivers of existing or possible hazards on roadways. for stop signs and railroad advance warning signs. exclusively for stop signs. for yield signs. 9. When you see this sign you should: increase your speed and try to pass other vehicles. prepare to slow down and possibly yield to oncoming traffic. slow your speed and be prepared to stop. slow down and do not pass other vehicles. 10. __________ are blue with white letters and symbols. Service signs Regulatory signs Warning signs Destination signs (guide signs) Page 1 of 10 Next page Grade this page NOT SURE YOU WILL PASS? GET DMV PREMIUM NOW! Deciphering Road Signs: Unlocking the Secrets for Safer DrivingIntroductionNavigating the roads is akin to learning a new language, where each sign has a specific message designed to guide and safeguard drivers. For novices and even seasoned drivers, deciphering these road signs can sometimes be a challenging puzzle. Diving into the complexities and subtleties of road signage, this exploration will illuminate how a thorough understanding of their meanings not only enhances driving safety but also enriches the overall driving experience. By mastering this 'language,' drivers can navigate more confidently and efficiently, making informed decisions that ensure their safety and the safety of others sharing the road.Understanding Road Signs: The BasicsThe world of road signage is designed to be intuitive, but it’s not uncommon to find yourself second-guessing a sign’s message. To clear up any confusion and help you make quick, informed decisions on the road, here are a few strategies:Recognize the Patterns: Road signs use consistent color and shape patterns to indicate their function. Once you recognize these patterns, you can quickly understand what’s expected without having to slow down.Hit the Books: Regularly reviewing your state’s driving manual is more than preparation for your driving test; it’s a way to refresh your understanding of what different road signs mean.Practice Regularly: Like any language, practice is key. Use driving simulators, take practice tests, and stay observant while on the road to sharpen your sign-reading skills.The Language of Colors and ShapesThe intricate language of road signs is communicated through specific colors and shapes, each meticulously designed to convey critical information efficiently and effectively, especially when drivers need to make quick decisions while traveling at high speeds. Understanding this visual language is crucial as each color and shape serves a distinct purpose: red commands attention for stop signals and prohibitions, green guides and informs route options, blue offers details about services and facilities, yellow cautions about potential hazards, and orange warns of construction zones ahead. Shapes too play a vital role; octagons signal stopping, triangles indicate yielding, rectangles provide general information or instructions, diamonds warn of upcoming hazards, and circles typically denote railroad crossings. This carefully structured system ensures that regardless of the language spoken by the driver, the signs convey a universal message that is understood instantly, maintaining order and safety on the roads. By learning to interpret these colors and shapes accurately, drivers can navigate more confidently and respond correctly to the diverse scenarios they encounter on their journeys, enhancing both their safety and that of others on the road. Here’s a quick guide to what these colors and shapes generally mean:Colors:Red: This color is used for signs that require drivers to stop or yield, indicating prohibited actions.Yellow: Often seen on warning signs, yellow signals caution, alerting drivers to potential hazards or changes in road conditions.Green: This color is synonymous with go, used on signs that give directions, distances, and navigation information.Blue: Look for blue signs when you need information on services like rest stops, hospitals, and more.Orange: Orange is the color of construction and detour signs, indicating temporary conditions ahead.Black and White: These colors are typically used for regulatory signs, such as speed limits and parking regulations.Shapes:Octagon: Reserved exclusively for stop signs.Triangle: Used for yield signs, indicating that drivers need to slow down and be prepared to stop.Rectangle: These are common for informational signs like directions and regulations.Diamond: Warning signs, alerting drivers to conditions such as curves, crosswalks, or road work.Pentagon: Watch for these near schools, where children are likely to cross.Circle: You’ll see these at railroad crossings.Pennant: This shape warns drivers of no-passing zones ahead.Enhancing Understanding Through Driver EducationEffective driver education extends beyond mere vehicle operation; it equips learners with the skills necessary to accurately interpret and respond to road signs. At Get Drivers Ed, our approach involves an exhaustive exploration of road sign meanings to thoroughly prepare drivers for real-world driving scenarios. Our curriculum covers everything from recognizing pedestrian crossings to navigating complex interchanges, ensuring that drivers develop a comprehensive understanding that instills confidence behind the wheel. This detailed education helps learners transform their approach to driving, turning them from tentative participants into proficient navigators of the roadways.ConclusionA profound understanding of road signs significantly enhances the safety and efficiency of your driving experience. These signs are indispensable tools for traffic management and accident prevention. Dedicating time to learn and understand their meanings not only elevates your competence as a driver but also contributes to the overall safety of the community on the road. By embracing a detailed educational journey with Get Drivers Ed, you empower yourself with knowledge that transcends the basics, fostering a safer driving environment for everyone. Engage with us to transform how you perceive and react to the road ahead, ensuring a secure and informed driving future.Call to ActionAre you ready to master the language of the road? Join us at Get Drivers Ed, where we make learning engaging and effective. Sign up today and transform how you see the road. Let’s drive towards a safer future together!Enroll Now with Get Drivers Ed The Federal Highway Administration specifies colors and shapes. They and national standards, which means they are the same in all states. Most states find shapes and colors important enough to be included in the driver’s manuals or driver handbooks. If you find them in your manual, you can also expect questions about them on the driver’s license exam. This, of course, is one reason for you to study both shapes and colors. But shapes and colors are also a great help when driving and looking for specific information later in life. Let’s say you are driving on an interstate and have been behind the wheel longer than you should. You desperately want to find a rest area. By scanning the road far ahead and looking for blue road signs, you can be prepared and keep in the right lane when a rest area appears – instead of finding yourself in the left lane overtaking a large truck when you get there. Or if you are running out of gas. Look for blue signs ahead; they all indicate motorist services. If it isn’t a sign indicating a rest area, it is probably a sign that guides you to restaurants, gas stations, or lodging. Orange signs ahead warn you of a work zone. Limiting distractions well ahead of the work zone allows you to be more alert to changing traffic patterns and workers. Green signs guide you to different destinations. If you are driving on unfamiliar roads, stay in the right lane until you can read the information on the guide signs. The above are just some examples of when knowing the color of signs can be handy. 1. You see a pink road sign from a distance. What should you expect ahead? A. A traffic incident. B. A school bus stop. C. A railroad crossing. Type: regulatory sign Color: black and white Shape: rectangle Location: before a road intersects with a divided highway What does a Divided Highway sign mean? A Divided Highway regulatory sign (not to be confused with the Divided Highway Begins and Divided Highway Ends warning signs), tells drivers that the road they are on intersects with a divided highway. Drivers who need to merge into the divided highway must keep in mind that they can only turn right at the first roadway, and they can only turn left at the second roadway. What type of sign is a Divided Highway sign? A Divided Highway sign is a regulatory sign. Regulatory signs control traffic, give commands or set limits. What are the colors of Divided Highway regulatory signs? Divided Highway signs are black and white. They have a white background with black graphics and lettering. What shape is a Divided Highway regulatory sign? A Divided Highway regulatory sign is a rectangle with longer horizontal sides. The sign shows a road merging into a divided highway, depicted as two black arrows pointing in the opposite direction. The sign has the words "DIVIDED HIGHWAY" written in black lettering. Where are Divided Highway regulatory signs commonly placed? Divided Highway regulatory signs are installed before the road that drivers are traveling on intersects with a divided highway. Divided Highway Sign - What To Do When you see a Divided Highway sign while driving, and you need to merge onto the divided highway, keep in mind that you can only turn right at the first roadway, and you can only turn left at the second roadway. Test Your Knowledge of Road Signs Take a Free Road Signs Practice Test Related Road Signs Studying for Your DMV Test?Get a Pass Guarantee Test Your Knowledge of Traffic Signs Take a Road Signs Test Now Stop signs are red. Caution signs are yellow. Construction signs are orange. These colors, and what they represent on the road, have been embedded into our daily routines since infancy. In seeing these colors so often, it’s natural to overlook the distinct methodology that determines why road signs and traffic lights are the colors they are, and what factors influence the decisions to add certain colors to certain shapes to maintain road safety. Generally, colors are classified into three groups: warm colors (red, orange, yellow), cool colors (blue, green, purple), and neutral colors (black, white, brown). Warm colors are typically utilized in graphic design to generate a strong emotion. Thus, a large majority of advisory signs on the roads follow these guidelines. MODERN DAY SIGNAGE: Color and Meanings Red If a sign is directly commanding you to do (or not to do) something, odds are it is red. For example, “Stop,” “Yield,” and “Do Not Enter” signs are all red, with the most crucial information on the road communicated through the use of either entirely red signs or white signs with red text. Orange and Yellow Similarly, warm colors are used to inform motorists of temporary and permanent hazards. Temporary cautions, typically due to construction, have always employed the color orange with black text, while permanent cautions use back text on a yellow backing for maximum readability and visibility. In the past, the most important messages were placed on yellow signs due to their maximal visibility throughout the day and night. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) reports that orange signage was not employed until 1964, in response to a larger prevalence of highway construction combined with the release of reflective aluminum materials for increased visibility. Orange continues to be the standard color for construction zones to this day. Yellow signs like this one indicate a permanent hazard, such as pedestrian-heavy areas (via RoadTrafficSigns.com). Orange signs, such as this Road Work sign, indicate more ephemeral hazards. (via RoadTrafficSigns.com). Green, Blue and Brown Less crucial information (that is, information that does not immediately influence the motorist’s action) is generally placed on neutral or cool colored signs. This coloring is intentionally employed as to not command the driver’s attention. The universally recognizable green color on highway exit and directional signs designates information that is purely contingent upon the driver’s intention. Blue signage indicates rest stops and restaurants, and brown designates a location for outdoor recreation. These colors are naturally non-distractive earth tones, intended not to disturb or advise but rather to inform. Red and green signs, such as rest area and exit markers, feature cooler colors as not to distract the driver. Black and White The primary focus of a black and white sign is clarity. The majority of black and white signs are advisory, giving motorists information that impacts their speed and indicates upcoming potential hazards. Many advisory signs simply feature black text on a white background, meaning to plainly and visibly inform drivers without distraction. Speed limit signs, movement regulations, one way signs, and railroad crossing signs are all exclusively black and white, devoid of color to promote an informatory aesthetic. Black and white signs, such as these keep right, speed limit, and railroad signs are devoid of color to designate a more informatory aesthetic.(via RoadTrafficSigns.com). Sign Color of the Past: History and Modifications Yellow stop sign and red stop sign. While seemingly second-nature, sign color has never been stagnant: the evolution of road signage in the United States has included a large series of updates and modifications. For example, stop signs were not always red. A large array of colors was used on stop signs throughout the country, following its first implementation in Detroit, Michigan in 1915. By the late 1920s, the color was standardized as yellow – remember this was before reflective aluminum was employed on traffic signs, making red a particularly poor choice for nighttime hours. These 1950’s Micro-Flex Co. Inc. signs advertise yellow stop signs with reflective aluminum beading along the letters of the sign, and the later, reflective aluminum red stop sign that is employed today. The stop sign was certainly not the only traffic sign to convert from yellow to red following the appropriation of reflective aluminum on road signage. Before the 1960s, yield signs were also yellow. While retaining its triangular outline, the original yield sign utilized yellow in order to maximize visibility. Today, the yield sign, with its characteristic shape, heavy red border, and red text isimmediately communicable and universal. With the appropriation of reflective aluminum, the yield sign went from yellow to red. No parking signs also made the conversion from yellow to red, but also changed their shape from circular to rectangular. This modification stems from the movement towards rectangular signs to reduce wasted materials – the only notable exceptions being, of course, yield and stop signs. No parking signs evolved from yellow to red, changing shape from circular to rectangular to save materials. Below is an excerpt from the 1935 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), listing the standardized specifications of traffic signs in the United States. During this era, orange was not incorporated in traffic sign vernacular simply due to the fact that most roadwork at the time involved constructing new roads, not maintaining old ones. Color Type Shape Background Message Regulatory Stop Octagon Yellow Black or red Speed Vertical White Black Movement Turning Vertical White Black Signals Vertical White Black One way Arrow White Black Alignment Vertical White Black Exclusion Vertical White Black Parking Prohibition Vertical White Red Restriction Vertical White Green Miscellaneous Vertical White Black Warning Slow Diamond Yellow Black Caution Square Yellow Black Railroad advance Circle Yellow Black Railroad crossing Cross-buck White Black Guide Route Marker U.S. Shield White Black State Special White Black Auxiliary signs Horizontal White Black Destination Horizontal White Black Location Horizontal White Black Information Horizontal White Black Rest station Clover leaf Green White Traffic Light Evolution The color of traffic lights also has a vibrant and significant history. The red and green colors for stop and go, respectively, were derived from early train signals. In the 19th century, trains utilized gas lamps that illuminated red and green to indicate whether trains should maintain speed or come to a stop. A series of modifications to this technique were used on the road. One such change was brought about at the beginning of the 20th century, with a buzzer employed to indicate when the light would change from green to red and vice versa. In New York City, the yellow light emerged to designate the movement of north- and south-bound traffic, while the green light meant that east and west bound traffic moves. This system was not well-received and caused a great deal of confusion, which led to the emergence of the standardized traffic light: green for go, red for stop, and yellow for slow down. The traffic light in its current form features the familiar red and green lights (sign via RoadTrafficSigns.com). The red light is placed on top of each stop light to allow for increased visibility of an eventual stop – if the automobile is cresting a hill, it will know to stop sooner and will more effectively reduce hazard. One primarily Irish-populated town in upstate New York, Tipperary Hill, objected to the placement of “British” red over “Irish” green, and local Irish immigrant youths would throw stones at the town’s red light atop its first traffic signal. This became such a prevalent issue that the town released a “green-over-red” traffic light in place of the traditional, standardized version, which still remains in operation today. Tipperary Hill’s Irish residents maintain their pride with the town’s green-over-red traffic light. Despite this minor protestation, the current traffic light system was universalized on April 27, 1925 and has remained free of criticism for nearly a century. Interestingly enough, the colors in traffic lights are congruent with the methodologies employed in traffic signage: red communicates immediate action, yellow indicates caution, and green suggests uninterrupted travel. This overlap has become imbedded in traffic sign methodologies, with warm, cool, and neutral colors organically employed to most efficiently keep motorists informed and hazard-free. The usage of color in traffic signs is an ever-evolving entity. With the development of new materials and the improvements in visibility and durability therein, it is not unlikely that a re-systemization of color coding in traffic signs could occur in the future.