



ROAD SIGNS

JUNE 2026

LENGTH 2–5 minutes

TO PREPARE Read the background information.

BACKGROUND

- In today's world with many employees driving as a part of their job, now is the right time to talk with all of your employees about road signs and have a refresher course on what they mean.
 - Discussing driving basics, such as the meaning of road signs, is time well spent to avoid potential consequences.
 - Medically consulted injuries totaled 5.4 million in 2021, and total motor-vehicle injury costs were estimated at \$498.3 billion.
 - Costs include wage and productivity losses, medical expenses, administrative expenses, motor-vehicle property damage and employer costs.
- <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/motor-vehicle/overview/introduction/>

DISCUSSION

- Do the shapes of traffic signs mean anything?
 - The quick answer is yes! You may remember learning about circles, squares, triangles, and more when you were younger.
 - Because that knowledge crosses language barriers, **the shapes of traffic signs are designed with universal meanings** as well.
- In the event of decreased visibility or signs that are hard to read due to bad weather, the shape of signs can be read even when it's hard to see/read the sign.
- Let's see what you already know about the shapes of signs.



As a group, let's name as many shapes of traffic sign shapes and their meanings as you can. Ready, set, go!

- An octagon signals the need to _____ (Answer: stop)
- An upside-down triangle always means _____ (Answer: yield)
- A diamond is used for _____ signs (Answer: warning)
- A pennant warns of a _____ (Answer: no passing zone)



TRAFFIC SAFETY Huddle

- A circle is a _____ advance warning (Answer: railroad)
- A pentagon signals a _____ (Answer: school zone) or a _____ (Answer: school crossing zone)
- _____ signs typically provide guidance to drivers (Answer: horizontal/rectangular)
- _____ signs usually serve as regulatory notices (Answer: vertical/rectangular)



The color of road signs is also chosen for a reason. What is the meaning behind these colors of signs?

- **Red**: Red means STOP! A red traffic sign tells the driver to stop. This limits the driver from going further.
- **Green**: Green means go. A green traffic sign tells the driver they can proceed.
- **Yellow**: A yellow traffic sign stands for caution and serves as a general warning.
- **Black/White**: A black and white traffic sign posts regulations such as speed.
- **Orange**: An orange traffic sign signals construction or road maintenance. Be prepared to slow down!
- **Pink**: Yes, you read that right. If you haven't yet seen this new color of signs, note that these are being used to designate special, temporary road hazards such as "emergency scene ahead" or other special emergency message.
- **Brown**: A brown traffic sign indicates local recreation areas or points of interest.
- **Blue**: A blue traffic sign offers information to assist the driver.

SUMMARY

- Our brains process shapes in different ways. Each traffic sign shape communicates a different message.
- Knowing the colors, shapes and their meanings can keep you and your employees safe on the road.