K53 CLLT / English

Road Signs Quick Reference

Read, revise and print useful study material in your language. No registration is required.

K53 CLLT is independent preparation. Its practice questions and screens are not the official test or its complete question bank, and practice scores cannot guarantee a pass.

Read the road-sign system

Use shape, colour, symbol and context together before choosing an action.

Six families, six different jobs

Read a road sign in three steps: identify its family, read its particular symbol or message, then locate the road, lane or distance to which it applies. A familiar colour alone is not enough to decide what you may do.

Regulatory signs impose instructions or restrictions. Warning signs identify a hazard ahead so that you can adjust early. Guidance signs help you select routes and destinations. Information signs add useful details. Road markings place instructions and guidance on the road surface. Traffic signals control movements by lights or authorised signals.

- A speed-limit circle is a maximum restriction; a curve warning with a recommended-speed plate is advice about the bend. Neither makes that speed safe in every condition.
- A guidance arrow tells you where a destination lies; a mandatory directional arrow tells you which movement is allowed.
- Use the symbol and any supplementary plate together. A vehicle symbol may identify a compulsory-use route, a prohibited class, a reserved lane or a destination depending on its surrounding sign.

Recognise the pattern, then check the exceptions

The usual pattern is circular regulatory signs, upright triangular warning signs and rectangular guidance or information panels. The most important shape exceptions are the octagonal STOP, the inverted triangle YIELD and the diamond pedestrian-priority sign. Recognise their silhouettes even when the wording is difficult to read.

A red border often accompanies a prohibition and a blue circle often gives a positive instruction. A blue rectangular reservation sign does not mean the same thing as a blue circle. Temporary signs commonly use yellow backgrounds where their permanent counterparts use white; the symbol still determines the instruction.

- STOP requires a complete stop; YIELD requires you to give way and to stop when necessary. Their different shapes help you distinguish them early.
- Compare the permanent and temporary versions in the reference cards. A T prefix in the manual identifies a temporary version; motorists respond to the displayed sign, not to a code printed in a study table.

Signs, signals & markings



Stop sign

To bring traffic to a stop.

Bring your vehicle to a stop behind the stop line. • If there is no stop line, the front of the vehicle must come to a standstill in line with the stop sign. • At a three-way or four-way stop you may not move off before all the other vehicles which stopped before you have moved off. • Proceed only when it is safe.

Where to expect it: At intersections, railway crossings and scholar patrols.



Yield sign

To indicate that you must yield to other traffic.

If other traffic is approaching the intersection, reduce speed and, if necessary, stop.

Where to expect it: At intersections and railway crossings.



Parking prohibited

To prohibit drivers from parking during any time of the day or night.

Do not park where these signs are displayed.

Where to expect it: On a public road where the road is narrow, near an intersection or where a parked vehicle can impair the vision of other drivers.



Stopping prohibited

To ensure traffic flow and prevent stationary vehicles from impairing drivers' views.

Do not stop unless to obey a traffic light or a traffic officer or to avoid a collision.

Where to expect it: On any public road. The sign may be supplemented by a red "no stopping line".



Pedestrian crossing

To warn that there is a demarcated pedestrian crossing ahead.

Slow down and stop if a pedestrian is waiting at the crossing. • Do not overtake other vehicles that have stopped at the pedestrian crossing.

Where to expect it: On any road especially in rural areas.



Yield to pedestrians

To compel you to give priority to pedestrians crossing the road or wanting to cross the road.

Look out for pedestrians crossing the road or near the road and be ready to stop.

Where to expect it: At intersections and pedestrian crossings.



No entry

To indicate that no traffic may proceed past the sign on the road, carriageway or lane.

Do not enter the carriageway where this sign is displayed.

Where to expect it: Usually found at the end of a one-way street, at the end of an off-ramp or at intersections where two-way traffic roads change to one-way traffic.



Keep left / keep right

To indicate that you must drive to the left or right of an obstruction where the sign is displayed.

Pass to the left or right of the obstruction, as indicated by the sign.

Where to expect it: At obstructions such as traffic islands. Only one of these signs will be displayed at a time.



Speed limit

Inform you of the speed limit applicable on this road. The restriction applies from the sign.

Do not exceed the speed indicated by this sign.

Where to expect it: On any public road.



Overtaking prohibited

The general no-overtaking sign prohibits any vehicle from overtaking another vehicle travelling in the same direction for the next 500 m. The goods-vehicle variant prohibits a goods vehicle from overtaking another goods vehicle for the next 500 m. That variant concerns goods vehicles, not all heavy vehicles such as buses. Other signs, markings and safe-overtaking rules still apply.



Confirmation

To confirm the route to a destination and the distance indicated in kilometres to such destinations.

Note the destination and in particular note the distance to the destination so that you can plan your trip to fill up with petrol or rest.

Where to expect it: On the left-hand side of the road a short distance beyond an intersection.

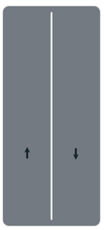


Bus stop ahead

To indicate that there is a bus stop ahead.

Be aware that buses may slow down and stop. Look out for pedestrians when overtaking.

Where to expect it: On the left-hand side of any road.

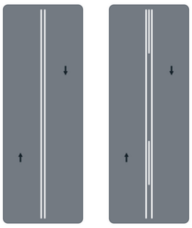


No overtaking lines

To inform you that it is prohibited to drive with any part of your vehicle on the right-hand side of this line.

Do not cross the line, except to gain direct access to an entrance on the other side of the line, to gain direct access from such an entrance to the road or to pass a stationary obstruction. In all these cases you must ensure that it is safe to do so.

Where to expect it: On any road that carries two-way traffic (traffic from opposite directions).



No crossing lines

To inform you that you may not cross this line.

Do not drive on the right-hand side of these double solid lines or cross them with any part of your vehicle.

Where to expect it: On any road with two-way traffic.

Sources

Sources checked: 2026-10-16

Department of Transport - SA Learner Driver Manual: Road Traffic Signs (pages: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 28, 42, 48, 49, 58)

https://test.natis.gov.za/images/learners/2_Manual_on_Road_Traffic_Signs_v100_Jun_2012.pdf

SADC Road Traffic Signs Manual, Volume 1 Chapter 2: Regulatory Signs (pages: 73)

https://www.transport.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/V1C2.pdf

SADC Road Traffic Signs Manual, Volume 1 Chapter 5: Information Signs (pages: 17)

https://www.transport.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/V1C5.pdf

SADC Road Traffic Signs Manual, Volume 4 Chapter 9: Information Sign Design (pages: 3)

https://www.transport.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/V4C9.pdf

Government Gazette20963 - GN R225/2000: original National Road Traffic Regulations and Schedule1 (pages: 276)

https://archive.gazettes.africa/archive/za/2000/za-government-gazette-regulation-gazette-dated-2000-03-17-no-20963-part-1.pdf

Read online

Read the road-sign system
https://k53-app.co.za/en/study/sign-families

Road Signs Quick Reference
https://k53-app.co.za/en/road-signs

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