ESOL – Common signs

This companion document covers the same learning as the interactive session, but in a different way so as to be more accessible for learners with sight impairments. Because of this, it does not follow a slide structure. If you wish to see many examples of the signs mentioned in this document please visit the interactive session.

Welcome

Welcome to this session on common signs.

There are signs that you will encounter in everyday life. In this session, you will be learning about the most common signs.

By the end of this session, you will:

* Understand the types of signs you will encounter and what they are used for.

Safety signs

Safety signs are found in workplaces and public buildings and are used to help keep people safe.

Safety signs usually have a green background with a white icon. For example, a green sign with a telephone on it will mean there is an emergency telephone nearby.

Restroom signs

Restroom signs are those which indicate a toilet or restroom is nearby. These can appear in a variety of styles with different colour backgrounds. The most common version of these signs will have a white background and a black icon or character to indicate what type of person uses the toilet. For example, a white sign with a person in a wheelchair on it means there are accessible toilets nearby.

Warning signs

Warning signs are signs which tell you not to do something. These are most commonly signs with white backgrounds which have a red border, often with a diagonal red line running through them. For example, a white sign with a “p” on it, bordered with a red circle and with a diagonal line running through it means no parking.

Tourist signs

Tourist information signs come in two varieties. The most common is a brown sign with white icon. The other version, a blue sign with a white “i” on it tends to be used to represent a place that has general information a tourist may find useful.

The brown signs indicate there is a landmark or place of interest nearby. For example, a brown sign with a white anchor on it might represent a boat museum.

Other signs

It’s important to remember that signs can come in a variety of shapes and the background colour may not always be the same. However, important signs like ones which mean pharmacy have been widly adopted around the world. The sign for pharmacy usually has a white background, and largely displays a green plus in the centre.

Other widely adopted signs include things like the symbol for wi-fi, which is a small dot followed by several curved lines.

Summary

Well done. You have completed this session on the articles.

You should now:

* Understand the types of signs you will encounter and what they are used for.

If you have any questions about anything covered in this session, please speak to your tutor for more help.