

6. "Grandmother" may be either the maternal or the paternal grandmother in English. Suggest names that would indicate the difference.
7. "Belle-mère" (*pretty mother*) indicates mother-in-law or step-mother in French. Suggest pleasant English terms for these relationships.
8. We have only three degrees of comparison: good-better-best. Suppose you had five items arranged in the order of their quality. How would you describe the second and fourth items?

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Signs and Symbols

Chapter 2

Signs of Life

"IT'S POISON!" said the police investigator as soon as he saw the *skull* and *crossbones* on the medicine bottle.

"There goes one of those Christians," shouted the Roman soldier at the man with a *fish* tattooed on his arm.

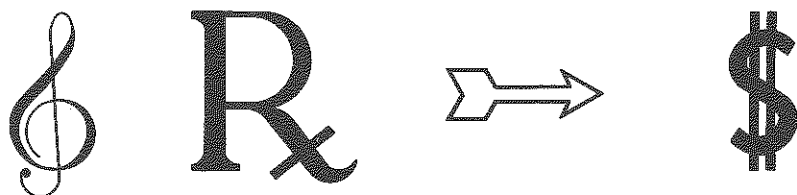
"You went through a *red light*," explained the officer as he gave the bewildered driver a traffic ticket.

"It's a dirty gyp," complained the angry customer while he painted *lemons* all over the body of his new car.

"I'm acquitted," gasped the soldier when he saw the *hilt of the sword* pointed toward him after the court martial.

The young and inexperienced soldier blushed with shame as his roommate presented him with a *white feather*.

All the signs or symbols mentioned in the sentences above were of vital importance to each of the men concerned. In some instances the sign meant the difference between life and death. These symbols have a meaning of their own that "speaks" for them so clearly that no words are necessary.

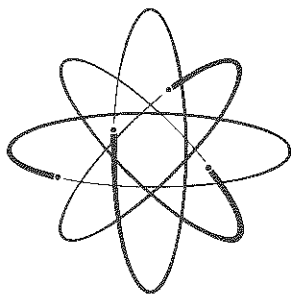


What ideas form in your mind as you look at each of these symbols?

Symbols Common in Daily Life

Symbols are signs that are used to represent some object or idea. Words are one example of symbols. Did you see any of the symbols today that appear above? Do they stand for a complete thought that could be expressed only by using several words or even a whole sentence? This was a saving of both time and space. But even more important was the fact that the signs were noticed and understood immediately.

Signs and symbols have been used since caveman days. They were important then and are still important today. Since we live in the atomic age, we move at a very rapid pace. Often, we have little time to express our ideas orally; consequently, symbols are used as an important part of our communication system. We use a wide variety of symbols, in addition to the written and printed words, to convey our thoughts. They make up a kind of shorthand writing in which a whole train of ideas may be expressed in a single picture or design. We accept the picture of a dove as a symbol for peace in many different lands.



Will the symbol of the atom stand for a bright or a dark future for mankind?

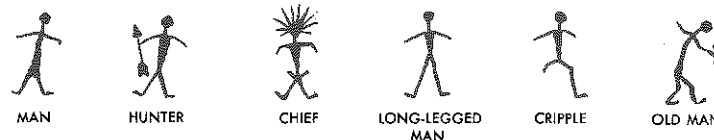
Heraldry

Ad men looking for new signs and symbols for automobiles have studied heraldry, the ancient art of identifying warriors, noble families, and castles. The shield of the Greek or Roman warrior was its owner's most precious protection against slings and arrows of the enemy. In the Middle Ages when chain mail was added to the warrior's dress as additional protection, an overcoat of colorful design was worn to distinguish one fighter from another. On these coats were embroidered symbols from nature and mythology: sun, moon, rainbows, insects, farm tools, mermaids, dragons, gods, and goddesses. This is the origin of the term "coat of arms."

A shield covered with a streak of yellow lightning shooting out from a black cloud down to a blood-red sea might help to frighten away a timid warrior. Three daggers were pictured on the shield of a knight who slew a wolf in the king's presence. Another coat of arms showed a crown supported by a sword indicating that this lord was a supporter of the throne. Some coats of arms simply described the family name. The Pyne family used three pineapples for their symbol. The mast of a ship disappearing between the jaws of a whale was the crest of the Swallow family. Shakespeare was awarded an honorary coat of arms containing a tilted spear. Englishmen who have coats of arms should regard them with pride—and also as a luxury. The British Government levies a tax on them.

Indian Signs

The Indians used picture symbols to express ideas. They were simple but effective. Using the symbol, man, the Indian broadened the character into the following pictures:



Symbols of Astronomy

The science of astronomy uses ancient symbols for the chief heavenly bodies. These symbols appear along the borders of these two pages and are arranged from top to bottom in this order:

Mercury	Uranus
Venus	Neptune
Mars	Earth
Jupiter	Pluto
Saturn	Sun

Roman Symbols

The Romans named their days of the week after the heavenly bodies and used the astronomers' symbols for them. Sunday was named for the Sun, and Monday, for the Moon. Our English names for these days are easily associated with these two bodies. The Roman symbol for Tuesday was that for Mars. Wednesday was the day of Mercury; Thursday, Jupiter's day; Friday, the day of Venus; and Saturday was named for the planet, Saturn. Here, again, our English name for this day is clearly recognizable in this connection.

Mathematical Symbols

What do the following equations tell us to do in arithmetic?

$$2 \times \$1.68 =$$

$$4 + 3 =$$

$$6 - 4 =$$

Every day we are confronted with mathematical symbols. Our ancestors used elementary

symbols to denote numbers as a means to record their possessions. The Inca Indians in Peru formerly tied knots in a cord to record each sheaf of grain. Today some people in the world still use the old method of cutting a notch in a stick to record numbers.

In our country we all need to be perfectly familiar with these common mathematical symbols:

— + × ÷ % =

Does a Color Convey a Message?

Why do we store away our dark clothes when spring arrives? What comes to your mind when you see the grass turn green, or the leaves of a tree turn brown? Why do airplanes have a combination of two or three colors painted on the fuselage? Do the answers to these questions answer the first question in the paragraph?

Consider what the colors listed below represent to you. Do you think they speak a universal language, too?

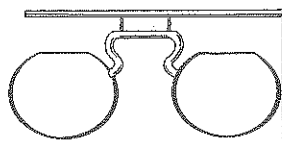
Black	Yellow
White	Red
Blue	Green
Purple	Pink

Business Signs

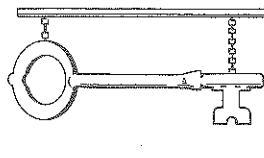
The Cheshire Cheese was a famous inn during the time of Charles Dickens. Even today you can buy an excellent meal there if you can find the sign of the inn hanging over the door in a little side street in London. "Old London" is full of quaint shops and inns marked by colorful signs to indicate their business.



WATCHMAKER



OPTICIAN



LOCKSMITH

Throughout Europe for centuries merchants have hung signs outside their stores to indicate their kind of business. It was necessary to identify a shop in this way because many people were illiterate, and this was their way of recognizing a shop or a store. We still see a few of these signs or symbols in the United States; but they are more widely used in Europe. Today, however, this "means of communication" is largely preserved for ornamental purposes.

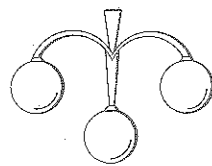
There are a number of instances in which a sign or symbol is used to tell the customer something about the product. Can you suggest a few? Consider these: the flying red horse, Atlas tires, Ajax powder, angel food cake mix, arm and hammer for baking soda, slender woman on potato chip box, cow on a milk carton, child cook on a soup can, alligator in a raincoat, crown on a phonograph, picture of Caesar in a pair of shoes.

Notice the ads for automobiles in magazines and newspapers. What symbols are used to show power and speed? What cars use the falcon, lark or hawk as their insignia? What does the Greek god, Mercury, stand for? Suggest some animals or birds that would be good symbols for cars.

In show business, a smiling mask stands for comedy; a mask with the corners of the mouth drawn down stands for tragedy. These classic symbols are Greek in origin.

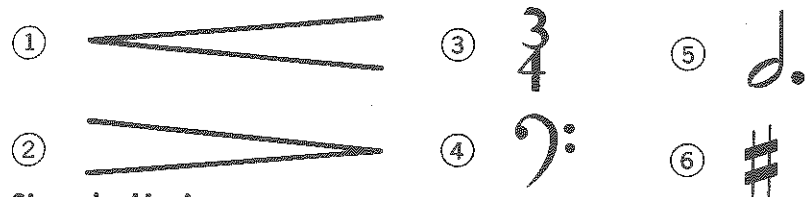


DRUGGIST



PAWNSHOP

SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

*Signs in Music*

There is a saying, "Music speaks a universal language." Those of you who are learning to play a musical instrument know the meaning of many signs and symbols in this language. Explain those above.

Symbols of Chemistry

Chemists write in an international language. They do not need to communicate orally, for the use of common symbols allows for mutual understanding. How many times have you seen the formula, H_2O ? What does this combination mean? The H is the symbol for hydrogen and the O , for oxygen. The small figure 2 signifies two parts of hydrogen to one part of oxygen.

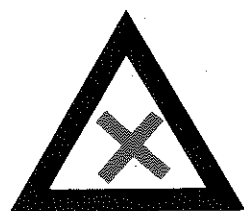
Find the name for each of these compounds or symbol combinations:



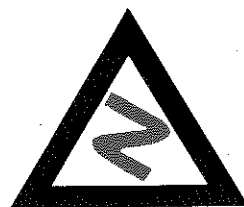
If you cannot find them, ask your science teacher for help.

National and International Signs

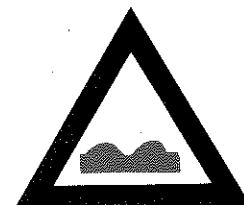
In many areas of the world there are people who are unable to read or write. A foreigner in a strange country is often at a disadvantage because of a lack of knowledge of the language and the country. How would these people get along if there were not simple common international symbols that told a story? Therefore, it is important that we familiarize ourselves with signs and symbols used throughout the world. As the number of automobiles increased in foreign countries, their traffic departments became more safety conscious. International cooperation again produced results to benefit all.



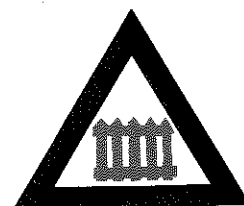
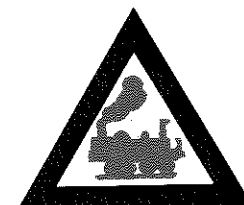
CROSSROAD



CURVES



DIP

PROTECTED
RR CROSSINGUNGUARDED
RR CROSSING

An American is able to drive a car throughout Europe without fear of misinterpreting road signs because common international symbols are used. Many accidents could have been prevented if drivers were more familiar with road signs. As future drivers, it is important for us to learn the language of these international signs. Some are shown on these pages.

Now look at some national coats of arms pictured in an encyclopedia or other reference book. Each one contains symbols that stand for important virtues or heroic achievements. Examine these and learn the stories behind them.

Manual Alphabet

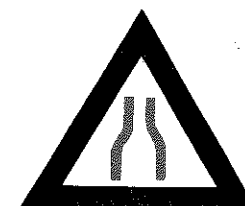
In the story of her life, Helen Keller tells about the day her teacher, Anne Sullivan, gave her a doll. Miss Sullivan slowly spelled into Helen's hand the word "d-o-l-l." She became interested in this finger play and tried to imitate it. The child felt both pride and pleasure when she succeeded in making the letters correctly. In the days that followed, she learned to spell a great many words, among them *pin* and *cup* and verbs like *stand* and *walk*.

This art of expressing ideas by signs made with fingers, sometimes called the manual alphabet, is a common form of communication used by deaf-mutes. There are two such alphabets, the one-hand alphabet and the two-hand alphabet, which was developed by a Scotsman in 1680. In the one-hand alphabet you can easily see how the marvelous mechanism of the human hand can shape letters with very little effort. Hold up the first two fingers of your hand and

you have the "V for Victory" sign made famous by Winston Churchill. Hold up three fingers to make the letter W. The angle between the thumb and first finger makes a good letter L. Close the circle of your thumb and first finger to make an O, the favorite sign of radio producers to indicate that everything on the program is O.K. The crossing of the letter T is shown by closing the hand with the thumb thrust between the first and second fingers. The other letters are in the unabridged dictionary under *dactylology*.

Code for Hoboes

Hoboes, those wanderers who roam our cities and farms trying to earn a living with the least amount of work, are said to have a sign language or code of their own. With their secret code they can leave messages for all who travel the hobo road. Consider the signs at the top of the next page. The first one means that the woman living in this house has a warm heart and will be moved by a hard-luck story. The second sign, which looks something like a rake, means that the people here will feed you if you work. The third sign, which might be a tall silk hat, says that the man living here is a gentleman and will treat you right. The fourth one is a warning and means, *Stay away; you may be shot!* These and many other hobo symbols were brought here from Europe at least 100 years ago. The old hoboes teach the younger ones, and this international form of language has spread everywhere. But there are some variations! Two interlocking circles can represent handcuffs or they can mean that two hoboes together fare better than one alone.

NARROW ROAD
AHEAD

DRAWBRIDGE AHEAD



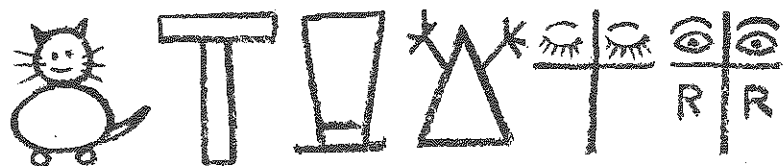
SLIPPERY WHEN WET



SCHOOL CROSSING



MEN AT WORK



Can you interpret the last two references to the railroad police?

Miscellaneous Symbols

Along with colors, we have animals, birds, and objects that symbolize ideas. Seals of states or nations of the world use eagles, lions, bears, deer, grain, trees, olive branches, arrows, stars, and many other different objects on their insignia. Each has a special meaning, and there is an actual relationship, association or resemblance between the symbol and the thing symbolized. Associate the following symbols with their respective meanings:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Uncle Sam | 12. Olive branch |
| 2. John Bull | 13. Palm |
| 3. Lion | 14. Bear |
| 4. Horseshoe | 15. Anchor |
| 5. Four-leaf clover | 16. Fish |
| 6. Rabbit's foot | 17. Alpha and omega |
| 7. Dove | 18. Peacock |
| 8. Roman helmet | 19. American eagle |
| 9. X | 20. Horn of Plenty |
| 10. Skull and cross bones | 21. Scales (weight) |
| 11. Lamb | 22. Smoky, the bear |

ACTIVITIES

1. Streets are often named after prominent people, famous business places or industries. Find out as much as you can about the history of the following street signs in England:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| a. Piccadilly | d. Pitch and Pay |
| b. Milk Street | e. Bessie's Beneath |
| c. Shoplatch Street | f. Unthank Road |

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| g. Ha Ha Road | n. Foghamshire |
| h. Three and Back Again Lane | o. Bow Wow |
| i. Christmas Steps | p. Feather Bed Lane |
| j. Snoring Road | q. Pudding Lane |
| k. Bread Street | r. Bread and Cheese Lane |
| l. Candlemaker Row | s. Sleepy Hollow |
| m. Brandy Hole Lane | t. The Nap |

2. What is the meaning of a tin star on a cowboy's shirt?
3. What symbols did Paul Revere use to show that the Redcoats were coming?
4. What is a one-star general? Two-star? Three-star? Four-star? Five-star?
5. What do three "gold" balls mean over a store entrance?
6. What does a mortar and pestle mean over a store entrance?
7. What does a red light mean? Green light?
8. What is the language of flowers? What is the meaning of roses? Violets? Other flowers?
9. Explain a yellow or solid white line in the center of the pavement? A yellow line on the curb?
10. In politics what do the elephant and the mule stand for?
11. Explain: colophon, trademark, watermark, brand.

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