

## Reading Part 1 Activity 1

# Reading the signs

## Warm up

Ask students to stand up. Tell them that you are going to give them some very short instructions. They must **show** they understand the instruction by miming the action. To help those who don't understand an instruction, point to a student who is doing the correct mime: *Look at what Anna is doing*. Of course, if no one understands the instruction, show by example and test again later. Choose from the following instructions or think of others:

*Push. Pull. Press. Lift. Twist. Lock. Unlock. Shake. Pick up. Put down.*

*Press the button. Turn the handle clockwise. Turn the handle anti-clockwise.*

*Shake the bottle well before opening. Twist off the cap. Replace the cap firmly after use.*

*Light the candles. Blow out the candles. Fasten your seatbelt. Check your rear view mirror. Ring the bell for assistance.*

*Insert coins and select option. Sign your name.*

*Fold the paper in half. Pump up the tyres. Blow up the balloon. Look both ways before crossing the road. Peel the potatoes. Cut the cheese into cubes. Now wash your hands. Shake excess water from hands and rub hands gently in air stream. Bell out of order, please knock. Switch off light before leaving.*

Repeat the instructions in a different order. As you do so, discuss where and when you might hear or see such instructions, and why you might follow them.

## Main activities

Students can do these activities in pairs or small groups.

- 1** Ask students what types of signs or notices they might see in a street, a public building and a park.  
 Give out the activity sheets.  
 After doing the exercise, discuss with students what the signs and notices mean. For example: FOR SALE and TO LET can both be signs outside a house or flat. The first one indicates that the owner wants to **sell** the property, and the second one that the owner is looking for a tenant to **rent** the property.

### Answers

In a street: Closed; No parking; To let; For sale

In a building: Way out; Visitors must report to reception; Fire exit

In a park: No bathing; Keep off the flowerbeds; Dogs must be kept on a lead

- 2** The symbols are a convenient way of conveying information that can also be expressed verbally.

### Suggested answers

**A** Information: At a station or airport or a public event like an exhibition

**B** Men's and women's toilets: On the doors of toilets/washrooms

**C** No entry (one-way street): A traffic sign at the entrance to a road

**D** No smoking: In public buildings, buses, trains, etc.

- E** Recycle: On recycling bins and at collection points; on public information leaflets  
**F** Refreshments (food and drink): In a museum; on a motorway  
**G** First aid: In a public building, e.g. a school or college  
**H** Baby care: In a public building, perhaps on the door of the facility  
**I** Children crossing: A traffic sign on a road

### 3

#### Answers

**1** D Theatre **2** A Hotel **3** H Hospital

**4** C Construction site **5** F Supermarket

**6** E Station platform **7** B Motorway **8** G Airport

### 4

#### Answers

**1** 7 S **2** 8 D **3** 4 S **4** 1 D **5** 3 S

**6** 5 D **7** 6 D **8** 2 D

## Follow up

- Ask students to look again at the iconic symbols in exercise **2** before they start drawing. (Desk top icons on the computer are also an excellent example of this pictorial shorthand.) Make a class display of the students' work. Students can vote on the best icon.
- Most word-processing software programs include some kind of clip art or image library. You might like to print some of these out for a similar discussion activity.

### EXAM PART

Reading Part 1

### EXAM SKILLS

Understanding signs, notices and instructions

Matching synonymous sentences

### TOPIC

Signs and notices in public places

### TIME

50 minutes

### KEY LANGUAGE

Synonyms and antonyms

Concrete nouns and action verbs

### PREPARATION

One photocopy of the activity page for each student

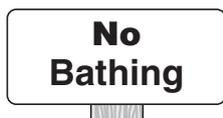
Reading Part 1 Activity 1

# Reading the signs

**1** Where might you see these signs?

- in a street • in a building • in a park

What do the signs mean?



**2** What do these symbols mean? Where might you see them?



**3** You can see the following notices in different places. Match the notices 1–8 with the places A–H.

- 1 There will be one interval of 15 minutes.
- 2 PLEASE LEAVE YOUR ROOM BY 11 AM.
- 3 Visiting hours 10.00 am–11.30 am and 5.00 pm–6.30 pm.
- 4 HARD HATS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES.
- 5 Buy two and get the second half price.
- 6 PLEASE STAND BEHIND THE YELLOW LINE.
- 7 Tiredness can kill: take a break.
- 8 Flight now boarding at gate 17.

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| A Hotel             | E Station platform |
| B Motorway          | F Supermarket      |
| C Construction site | G Airport          |
| D Theatre           | H Hospital         |

**4** Read the notices in exercise 3 again. Match each of the following sentences with one of the notices. If the sentence means the same as the notice, write S; if it means something different, write D. The first one is done as an example.

- 1 It's dangerous to drive when you're tired.  S  D
- 2 You've got plenty of time for shopping before your plane leaves.  S  D
- 3 In this place you could be injured if you don't protect your head.  S  D
- 4 The play will be performed in one act, without a break.  S  D
- 5 You can come to visit a patient in the morning or in the evening.  S  D
- 6 If you buy two bags of oranges you can have the second bag free.  S  D
- 7 Please let passengers get off the train before you try to get on.  S  D
- 8 You cannot leave your room before 11 am.  S  D

### Follow up

Draw simple icons to represent the following:

No dogs permitted in the shop • Silence in the library, please • No flash photography • Beware of the dog • No fishing • Music room • Film club • Poisonous