

Zebra, pelican, puffin, toucan...

Heard the one about 'why did the zebra cross the road ??' If you haven't you're probably not alone – and you probably aren't all that sure about the difference between a pelican, a puffin and a toucan crossing!

Brush up your knowledge by taking a look at the colourful [Road Crossings](#) leaflet produced with kind permission of Oxfordshire County Council's Road Safety Team and Oxfordshire Design and Print Service. Then try your hand at our [Zebra, puffin, pelican, toucan](#) quiz below.

Brushing up your knowledge of different types of crossing will help you to feel more confident when talking about them to children and parents. It's human nature to avoid talking about

something we aren't quite sure about. Once you can identify the crossings you'll be amazed at how often you've been using a pelican or pausing for a puffin, without even knowing it!

Name facts

Here are the reasons why crossings get their names – and some ways of helping you to remember how to tell the difference.

Zebra crossings are named after their stripes – and are used in many parts of the world.

The word puffin actually comes from Pedestrian User Friendly Intelligence. (It's so 'friendly' that the buttons are right beside you!)

The word Pelican actually comes from Pedestrian Light Control) (You 'control' the button for the 'green man' at the other side of the road)

The word Toucan is quite literally based on the idea that two can cross – because these are joint pedestrian and cycle crossings.

Quiz

- 1 Which of these crossings does not have a 'red/green' man signal?
 - A Pelican
 - B Puffin
 - C Zebra
 - D Toucan

- 2 When you press the button at a Puffin crossing the 'green man' signal will appear:
 - A On the other side of the road
 - B On your side of the road
 - C In the bird's bill
 - D Never – there is no 'green man' at a Pelican crossings

- 3 If the 'green man' starts to flash when you are already crossing at a Pelican you should:
 - A Turn back and run to the pavement
 - B Stop – even if you are in the middle of the road
 - C Keep walking until you reach the other side
 - D Whistle a happy tune

- 4 At a Puffin crossing, if there is a black 'mat' on the pavement you should stand on it because...
 - A This keeps your feet clean and prevents damage to the sensitive surface of the crossing
 - B The mat will weigh you and decide how long you need to cross the road
 - C The mat usually contains sensors which control the red/green light which controls the traffic
 - D You will be able to take part in a aerobics class while you wait to cross

- 5 At a Puffin crossing, if there is no 'mat', you should stand:
 - A As close to the road as possible
 - B About one step back from the kerb
 - C Near the beak but away from the eyes
 - D Three paces to the left of the crossing

- 6 A Toucan crossing is a crossing for both:
 - A Cars and children
 - B Horse riders and motorbikes
 - C Pedestrians and cyclists
 - D Birds and bees

- 7 At a Toucan crossing the time given for crossing is:
 - A Controlled by sensors and varies to allow appropriate time for people and cycles to cross
 - B Colourfully co-ordinated to reflect the toucan's beak
 - C Controlled by the time local schools finish for the day
 - D Controlled by the speed and numbers of cars

- 8 At a Pelican crossing you should always press the button and...
 - A Wait for the birdy to appear
 - B Wait for the traffic to stop
 - C Wait for the 'green man' to show
 - D Wait for the 'green man' to show – and check that the traffic has stopped

- 9 If a Pelican crossing is 'staggered' (has an island in the middle) you should:
 - A Grab the nearest bottle of wine and sway like a tree in the wind
 - B Only cross when there is an amber light showing
 - C Attempt to cross both sections in one go
 - D Wait at the traffic island and press the signal button for the 'green man'

- 10 At any form of road crossing you must always:
 - A Cross as fast as you possibly can
 - B Keep looking and listening in case drivers don't stop
 - C Wait until a lollipop person arrives
 - D Press all the buttons on the signal

You can find the Answers on the next page

Answers

Q1 Answer: C – a zebra crossing does not have a signal box, so there is no red light to stop drivers. This is why it's important to wait for the traffic to stop.

Q 2 Answer: B – A Puffin crossing is similar to a Pelican crossing except it has the 'green/red man' signal on your side of the road.

Q3 Answer: C – when you have started crossing at a Pelican and the 'green man' signal on the other side starts flashing, you should keep walking calmly and purposefully to the other side.

Q4 Answer: C – Puffin crossings have sensors which can tell when people are waiting to cross. These are often located in a black 'mat' area near the kerb.

Q5 Answer: B – at a puffin crossing you should stand about one step/pace back from the edge of the kerb if there is no mat. Never stand too near the edge of the road.

Q6 Answer: C – Toucan crossings are shared crossings for both pedestrians and cyclists. (Crossings designed for horse-riders are called Pegasus crossings.)

Q7 Answer: A – a toucan crossing is controlled by sensors which work out the amount of time pedestrians and cyclists need to cross.

Q8 Answer: D – always wait for the 'green man' – but then check that the traffic has stopped.

Q9 Answer: D – if a crossing is 'staggered' there will be another signal on the traffic island. You need to stop and wait for the 'green man' before you can cross the second part of the junction.

Q10 Answer: B – even if the light for drivers is red, you can never be absolutely certain that all drivers will stop. So it's important to keep looking and listening whenever you cross the road.