

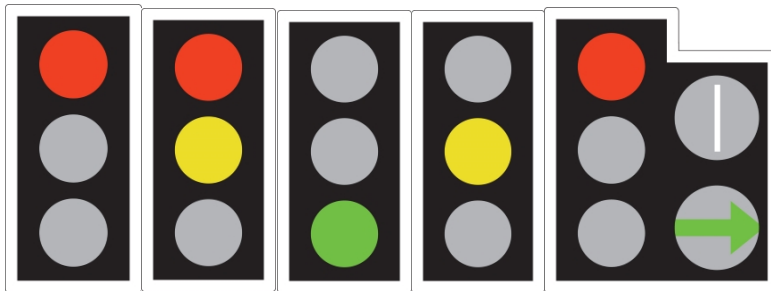
## Pedestrian Crossings

There are 7 types of pedestrian (I include animals) crossings (or configurations) in England.

1. Zebra
2. Lollipop
3. Pelican
4. Puffin
5. Toucan
6. Staggered
7. Pegasus (Equestrian)

For the theory test you could be asked about all of them so what are the differences?

Before we get going we need to make sure that you know the standard traffic light sequence:



RED means 'Stop'. Wait behind the stop line on the carriageway

RED AND AMBER also means 'Stop' but get ready, so get into gear and do your 3 mirror check! Do not pass through or start until

GREEN shows GREEN means you may go on if the way is clear. Take special care if you intend to turn left or right and give way to pedestrians who are crossing

AMBER means 'Stop' at the stop line. You may go on only if the AMBER appears after you have crossed the stop line or are so close to it that to pull up might cause an accident. Therefore, on the approach to a light make sure you know how close the vehicle behind you is otherwise how will you know if you're likely to cause an accident?

A GREEN ARROW may be provided in addition to the full green signal if movement in a certain direction is allowed before or after the full green phase. If the way is clear you may go but only in the direction shown by the arrow. You may do this whatever other lights may be showing. White light signals may be provided for trams (up and down means GO, left to right means STOP).

I know the AMBER light means 'stop' but you could also think of it as 'get ready, I'm just about to change'. If it's on its own then it's getting ready to say 'STOP', if the RED light shows as well then it's getting ready to go GREEN because the RED light currently says STOP.

## General Rules

As far as a driving test is concerned, examiners are looking for compliance of laws and a level of decency and thought towards each other. So if you drive taking unnecessary risks you will be penalised and potentially fail even though you're not breaking any laws as such. Just anticipate dangers and adapt your drive accordingly; be nice.

### Rule 191

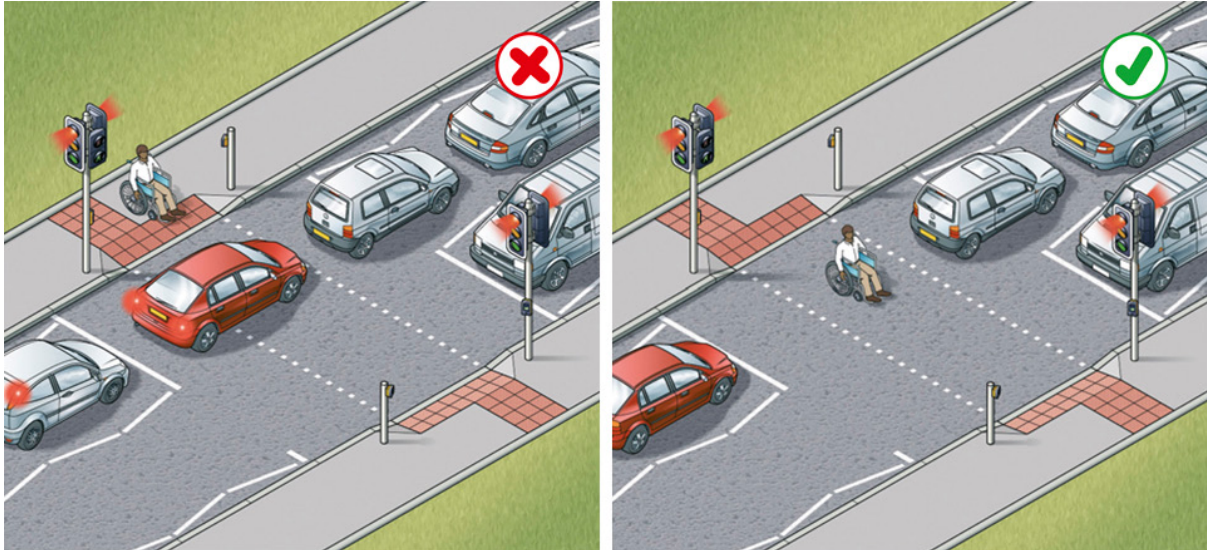
You **MUST NOT** park on a crossing or in the area covered by the zig-zag lines.

You **MUST NOT** overtake the moving vehicle nearest the crossing or the vehicle nearest the crossing which has stopped to give way to pedestrians.

These are laws people – break them at your peril!!

### Rule 192

Keep the crossing clear – not laws but guidance – your driving examiner will expect it though!



### Rule 193

If you can't see if someone is approaching a crossing because of parked cars or traffic – approach with extreme care as people may be crossing.

### Rule 194

Be nice; don't harass people to hurry them along.

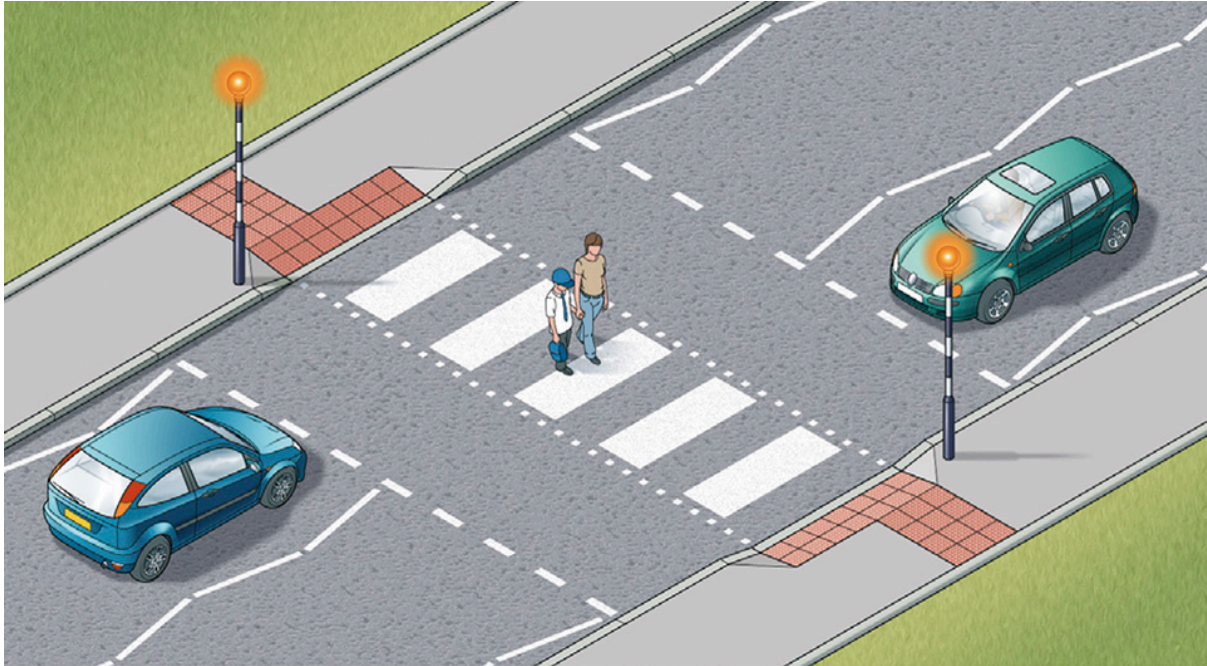


## Zebra Crossing

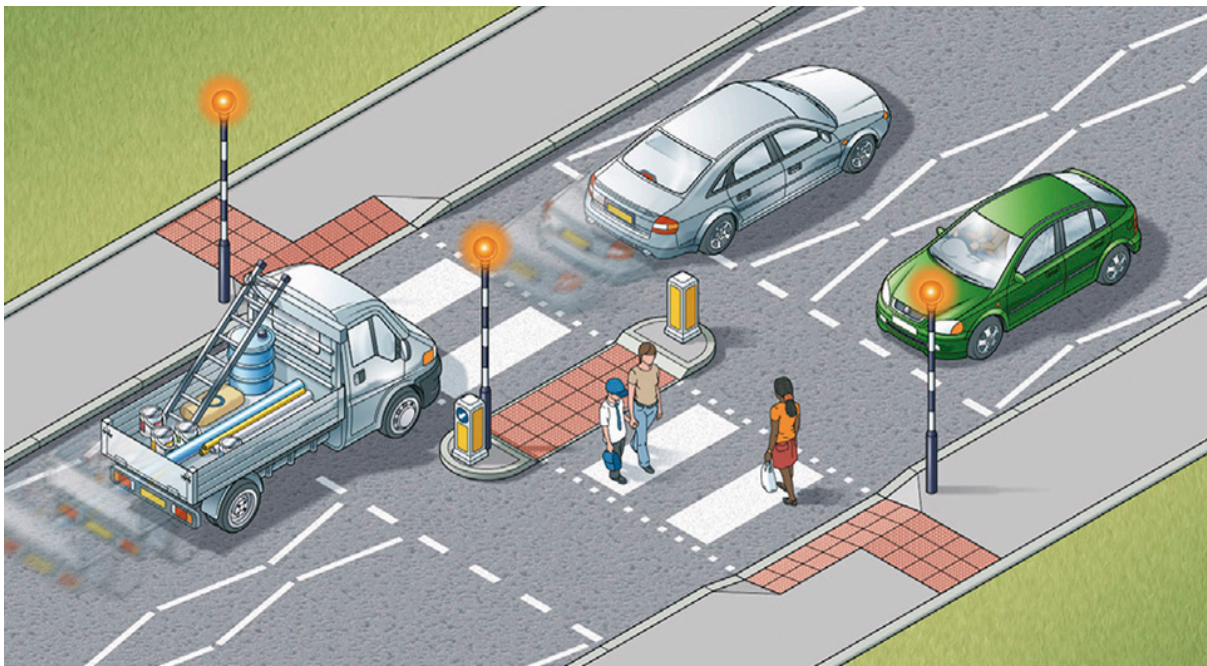
### What the Highway Code has told the pedestrians

Rules 19 and 20 apply but here are the important bits:

- Wait until traffic has stopped in both directions
- **Remember that traffic does not have to stop until someone is on the crossing** -interesting
- Keep looking out for numpties so that you don't die.



- When there is an island in the middle of a crossing, wait on the island before crossing the second half – **it is a separate crossing.**





## What the Highway Code has told the drivers

### Rule 195

If someone is waiting to cross – let them

You **MUST** give way to anyone on the crossing already

Don't wave or invite people out - there could be another vehicle approaching

Be aware of people who might run onto the crossing from the side of it – like stupid teenagers

A zebra crossing with a central island is two separate crossings.

Note that it is the pole with the flashing light in the middle that makes it two crossings – not the island itself.

If you think of the crossing as having traffic lights instead, a pedestrian who walks slowly might only make it half way before the lights change to green; how would they call the lights again in this instance? They can't and so we assume that it is all one crossing in the absence of a central light.

Just in case you were wondering, you can get islands in the middle of a road without a light and this is to deter motorists from overtaking in busy environments. So you can get the previous picture but without the central light thus making it one crossing.

### *Summary*

- Black and white stripy pole with flashing amber light on top.
- Light can either be a flashing ball or an LED halo around a ball.
- Give way to anyone who's likely to get to the crossing the same time as you – even if there are waves of people approaching.
- You CANNOT go onto a crossing if it is currently being used.
- DON'T invite people out.
- DON'T be impatient.





Not ready to cross



Barrier to stop pedestrians



Vehicles must prepare to stop



All vehicles must stop

Look out for these people by the side of the road. When you stop be aware that pedestrians may be running at the crossing at a diagonal and therefore stay back- don't just stop next to the crossing; after all there needs to be room for pedestrians to walk across the road.





## Pelican Crossing

Originally, traffic light pedestrian crossings worked with a timer. Someone would press a button then every 20 seconds or so, the lights would change. There'd be a longer delay to allow people to cross then we'd have to wait for the lights to go back to green.

You'll have to trust me on this, as a kid growing up in the 70's and early 80's, THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO!!! Channel 4 didn't even start until 1982!

So to entertain ourselves we would go and do things like, hit each other with sticks, throw balls, have competitions to see who could pee the furthest, press a traffic light then run away and hide and watch all the annoyed drivers stop for no reason.

To aid with this traffic stopping issue, the RED AND AMBER lighting phase was replaced with a FLASHING AMBER so that drivers could treat them like Zebra crossings and go early if no one was using the crossing.

The **P**edestrian **l**ight **C**ontrolled crossing was born and subsequently called a Pelicon crossing; this was later morphed into a Pelican Crossing.



**A Pelican** beating up a man – (Previously known as Pelicon) Pedestrian light Controlled Crossing (image from <https://from-ua.com/>)

Notice that this traffic light has a sensor looking at the traffic but not the pedestrians (some have no sensors at all). It therefore does not know if there are pedestrians on the crossing and so has a flashing amber phase to allow traffic to proceed when the crossing is empty.



## Puffin Crossing

Puffins are the new and improved way of doing things.

They are intelligent and have sensors that look at the crossing to detect if there is a pedestrian on it. The traffic light will stay in the pedestrians favour until the crossing is clear and then it'll go back to the vehicles favour.

This technological wizardry means that motorists get on their journey much sooner if there are no pedestrians.

Because the traffic light knows there are no pedestrians, you are not allowed to think for yourself and so the traffic light behaves like a standard traffic light with no flashing light phase.



**Puffin - Pedestrian User Friendly Intelligent Crossing** (image from <http://projectpuffin.audubon.org/>)

Notice that this traffic light has a sensor looking at the crossing itself to detect pedestrians.



## How to remember which has a flashing light phase

How I remember it is with size.

If you think of technology generally, when it starts out it's massive!!! Then as things get better, it either shrinks or you get more in the same size box. Take the mobile phone for instance:

The world's first mobile phone call was made on April 3, 1973, when Martin Cooper, a senior engineer at Motorola, called a rival telecommunications company and informed them he was speaking via a mobile phone. The phone Cooper used, weighed a staggering 1.1kg and measured in at 228.6x127x44.4mm. With this prototype device, you got 30 minutes of talk-time and it took around 10 hours to charge.



Martin Cooper – cellular phone inventor

Now, a pelican bird is big, a puffin is small, therefore, using my logic the puffin is technologically advanced.

The puffin is the advanced pedestrian traffic light and it knows when people are there and so it tells you when you can go – no flashing lights.

The pelican is a stupid light and has no idea if pedestrians are there or not; it therefore relies on us to make the decision - it has a flashing amber light just like a zebra crossing.





## Pegasus Crossing



Pegasus – Greek mythology; a horse with wings! (image from [www.greekmyths-greekmythology.com/pegasus-winged-horse/](http://www.greekmyths-greekmythology.com/pegasus-winged-horse/))

Well now you know that Pegasus was a flying horse you can see why Equestrian Crossings have this name!



Quite a new crossing, these have sensors like Puffins and behave the same way. They have a picture of a horse on the button box and the buttons to call the light are often at 2 different heights in case the rider is on horseback or not.



## Toucan Crossing



Toucan (image from [www.pinterest.co.uk/windycityparrot/](http://www.pinterest.co.uk/windycityparrot/))

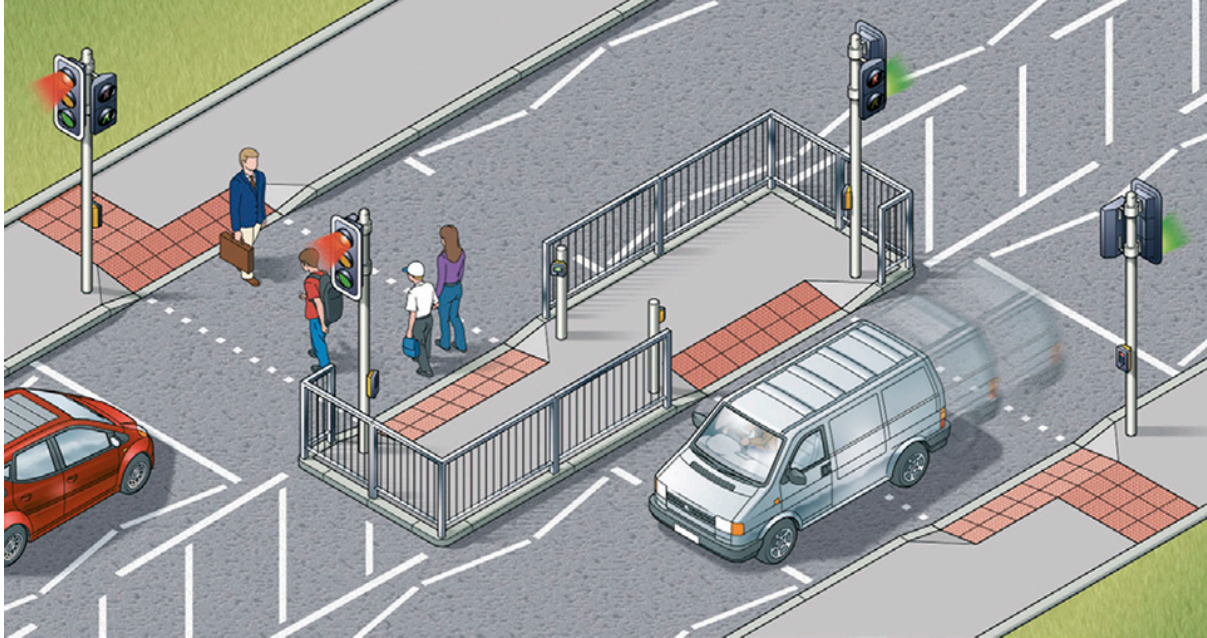
Toucan crossings are used by cycles and pedestrians and you can remember this because 'TWO CAN CROSS'; either two wheels or modes of transport. They are modern lights and so they have the sensors on top and behave just like puffins.





## Staggered Crossing

This is just a central island in the middle of the road with protective barriers so that life can cross part way.



The type of light attached to the crossing could be any type in theory but I have only seen traffic lights; therefore I would expect Pelicans, Puffins, Toucans or Pegasus.



## How to approach a light controlled crossing

Look to see if the wait button has been pressed; this could be a little red circle or the WAIT sign. If it has been pressed the lights will change at some point. It doesn't matter if someone is there or not; it's if they have pressed the button. Of course if it's just a normal traffic light then assume that the light will change any second now.

Always check how close the vehicle behind you is because the Highway Code states "You may go on only if the AMBER appears after you have crossed the stop line or are so close to it that to pull up might cause an accident."

With time you will learn to know what distance you need to stop in based on speed and conditions.

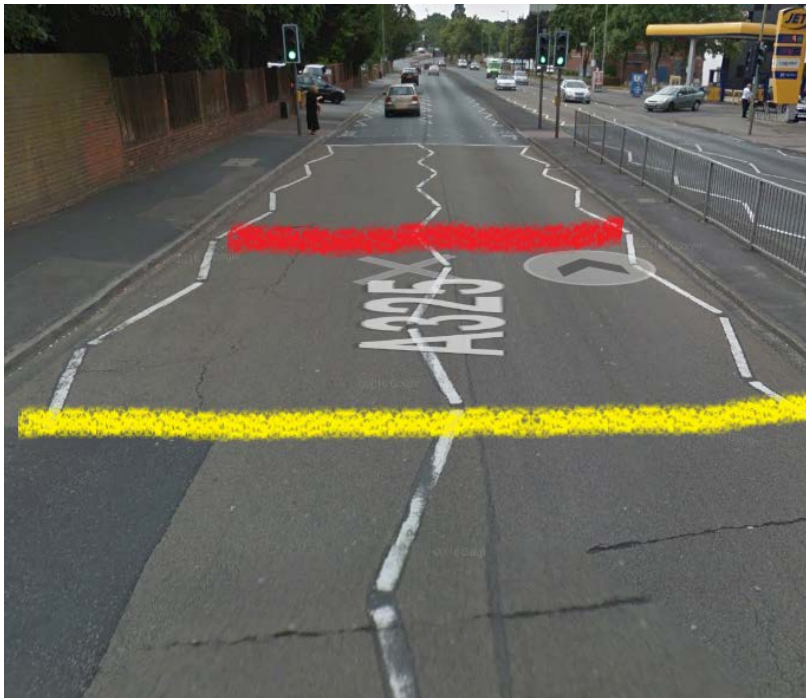
Let's say that today, there is no car behind me and I feel I can stop if I brake by the red line area. I pick the join at the zigzag and if I have passed that spot when the light changes to AMBER then I will

keep going; if I haven't passed it yet, I will stop.

If there is a bike behind or a bus then I can't suddenly stop or else they will hit me, therefore I will pick the yellow line and apply the same 'Stop or keep going' thought process.

A word of caution is that you must be realistic; you still can't jump a RED traffic light!

By using this technique, you'll avoid the problem of slowing at a green light and also indecision when the lights change.







## Summary

Name	Who for	Flashing light?	Intelligent?
Zebra	Pedestrians	Yes	No
Lollipop	Pedestrians	No – a lollipop	Yes
Pelican	Pedestrians	Yes	No
Puffin	Pedestrians	No	Yes
Toucan	Pedestrians and Cyclists	No	Yes
Staggered	Just a central island	Depends on attached light type	
Pegasus	Pedestrians and Horses	No	Yes

