

## Trend Task



## Signs Around Town

**Approach:** One to one

**Level:** Year 4 and year 8

**Focus:** Reading signs with strong visual cues.







**Resources:** Ten photographs.







**Questions/instructions:**

I'm going to show you some pictures of signs. Signs usually give us messages or tell us something.

As you look at each picture, try to do two things: read out loud the words on the sign, then tell me what you think the sign means.

Show student each sign in order from 1 to 10. Say, "Here's picture number 1"; "Here's picture number 2", etc. Ask the two questions for each sign (below). *Don't* give help with reading words. *Do* give encouragement to try.

1. Read the words on the sign.	% responses	
	2000 ('96) year 4	2000 ('96) year 8
2. Explain what you think the sign means without just reading out the words.		
	read words accurately explained vehicles can't go in this way	90 (83) 98 (96) 89 95
	read words accurately explained you can use a phone here with a Telecom card	66 (71) 80 (73) 66 90
	read words accurately explained you can get fish & chips here explained you can drive in to get them	88 97 83 88 72 91
	read words accurately explained gates will be closed at 5.30pm	86 (79) 94 (91) 63 88
	read words accurately explained you should not block this area, it might be needed as a fire exit.	85 95 33 68
	read words accurately <b>Explained :</b> you can park here for McDonalds you can be towed away if you park here and don't go to McDonalds	70 92 55 72 23 60

		% responses	
		2000 ('96) year 4	2000 ('96) year 8
	 read words accurately explained that dogs are not allowed in this area	32 (26) 96	82 (75) 97
	no more than 2 words incorrect explained that ducks should not be fed here explained where ducks should be fed explained why	85 70 55 45	97 74 68 56
	read words accurately explained no bikes of any sort allowed here	67 46	95 85
	no more than 1 word wrong explained construction going on explained walk on opposite path	51 38 51	91 74 74
	<b>Total score: 21 - 25</b>	17	64
	17 - 20	36	29
	13 - 16	27	5
	9 - 12	11	2
	5 - 8	6	0
	0 - 4	3	0

**Commentary:**

On average, about 20 percent more year 8 than year 4 students read the words on individual signs accurately, or explained their meaning adequately. The differences were much larger on the more difficult signs. For four of the signs, it was possible to compare reading accuracy in 1996 and 2000. On average 4 percent more year 4 students and 5 percent more year 8 students read accurately in 2000 than in 1996.