

**signal****1. [ˈsɪgn(ə)] n**

1. 1) команда; знак; сигнал

a signal of distress - сигнал бедствия

light signals - световые сигналы

smoke signal - дымовой сигнал, сигнальный дым

radio signal - радиосигнал

call signal - *радио* позывнойstarting signal - *спорт.* стартовая команда

on (a) signal - по сигналу, по команде

to make signals to - подавать (кому-л.) знаки, сигнализировать

2) *воен.* сигнализация; сигнальное устройство

the signal does not work - сигнализация не работает

2. признак; знак

his rising was a signal that the meeting was over - он поднялся, дав тем самым понять, что совещание закончилось

he gave no signal of recognition - он не подал вида, что узнал меня

3. *преим. воен.* связь

signal communications - средства связи

signal service - служба связи

signal officer - а) офицер войск связи; б) начальник связи

signals message center - *амер.* пункт сбора донесений4. *р/*1) *воен.* войска связи2) *воен. разг.* связисты3) *мор.* служба связи**2. [ˈsɪgn(ə)] a**1. *книжн.* знаменательный выдающийся, поразительный

signal achievement - знаменательное достижение

signal failure - полнейший провал

signal success - блестящий успех

2. сигнальный

signal bomb /star/ - сигнальная ракета

signal pistol - сигнальный пистолет

signal panel - сигнальное полотнище

signal beacon - *мор.* сигнальный знак**3. [ˈsɪgn(ə)] v**

сигнализировать; давать сигналы

to signal a message - передать сообщение

the ship signalled its distress - корабль подал сигнал бедствия

to signal by means of rockets - сигнализировать ракетами

to signal for a pilot - *мор.* дать сигнал вызова лодмана**signal**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**sig·nal** [**signal signals signalled signaled signalling signaling**] **noun, verb**,**adjective** *BrE* ['sɪgnəl] \* *NAmE* ['sɪgnəl] \***noun****1.** a movement or sound that you make to give sb information, instructions, a warning, etc.**Syn:** ↑sign• a **danger/warning/distress etc. signal**

• At an agreed signal they left the room.

• The siren was a signal for everyone to leave the building.

• When I **give the signal**, run!• (*NAmE*) All I get is a **busy signal** when I dial his number (= his phone is being used) .• **hand signals** (= movements that ↑*cyclists* and drivers make with their hands to tell other people that they are going to stop, turn, etc.)**see also** ↑turn signal**2.** an event, an action, a fact, etc. that shows that sth exists or is likely to happen**Syn:** ↑indication• The rise in inflation is a **clear signal** that the government's policies are not working.• Chest pains can be a **warning signal** of heart problems.• Reducing prison sentences would **send the wrong signals** to criminals.**3.** a piece of equipment that uses different coloured lights to tell drivers to go slower, stop, etc, used especially on railways/railroads and roads

• traffic signals

• a stop signal

• Delays are occurring as a result of signal failure on the northbound line.

**4.** a series of electrical waves that carry sounds, pictures or messages, for example to a radio, television or mobile/cell phone

• TV signals

• a high-frequency signal

- a radar signal
- to **detect/pick up signals**
- to **emit a signal**
- I couldn't **get a signal** on my cell phone.
- The satellite is used for transmitting signals around the world.

### Word Origin:

**v.** and **n.** late Middle English Old French medieval Latin **signale** late Latin **signalis** Latin **signum** 'mark, token'  
**adj.** early 17th cent. French **signalé** Italian **segnalato** 'distinguished, made illustrious' **segnale** 'a signal'

### Thesaurus:

**signal** noun C

- When I give the signal, run!

**sign** • • **cue** •

a signal/sign/cue **for** sb/sth

**give sb** a signal/sign/cue

**wait for/miss** a/your signal/sign/cue

**understand/misunderstand** a signal/sign

### Synonyms:

**sign**

indication • symptom • symbol • indicator • signal

These are all words for an event, action or fact that shows that sth exists, is happening or may happen in the future.

**sign** • an event, action or fact that shows that sth exists, is happening or may happen in the future: ▪ Headaches may be a sign of stress.

**indication** • (rather formal) a remark or sign that shows that sth is happening or what sb is thinking or feeling: ▪ They gave no indication as to how the work should be done.

**sign or indication?**

An **indication** often comes in the form of sth that sb says; a **sign** is usually sth that happens or sth that sb does.

**symptom** • a change in your body or mind that shows that you are not healthy; a sign that sth exists, especially sth bad: ▪ Symptoms include a sore throat. ◇▪ The rise in inflation was just one symptom of the poor state of the economy.

**symbol** • a person, object or event that represents a more general quality or situation: ▪ The dove is a universal symbol of peace.

**indicator** • (rather formal) a sign that shows you what sth is like or how a situation is changing: ▪ the economic indicators

**signal** • an event, action or fact that shows that sth exists, is happening or may happen in the future: ▪ Chest pains can be a warning signal of heart problems.

**sign or signal?**

**Signal** is often used to talk about an event, action or fact that suggests to sb that they should do sth. **Sign** is not usually used in this way: Reducing prison sentences would send the wrong signs to criminals.

a(n) sign/indication/symptom/symbol/indicator/signal **of** sth

a(n) sign/indication/symptom/indicator/signal **that...**

a **clear** sign/indication/symptom/symbol/indicator/signal

an **obvious** sign/indication/symptom/symbol/indicator

an **early** sign/indication/symptom/indicator/signal

an **outward** sign/indication/symbol

to **give** a(n) sign/indication/signal

### Example Bank:

- A strong buy signal was issued to traders.
- All I get is a busy signal when I dial his number.
- At a pre-arranged signal, everyone started cheering.
- He had arranged a signal for the band to begin.
- Interviewers quickly learn to pick up non-verbal signals.
- It is possible to jam GPS signals in battle.
- Laughing when you should be crying sends out the wrong signals to people.
- She made a signal for the car to stop.
- The brain interprets the signals from the retina as light.
- The digital signal travels down wires to the server.
- The insect's bright colours act as warning signals to its predators.
- The insect's yellow spots act as a warning signal to its predators.
- The nerves carry these signals to the brain.
- The remark was interpreted as a signal that their government was ready to return to the peace talks.
- The signal is scrambled into code before it is sent.
- The traffic signals were on red.
- This equipment can detect very low frequency signals.
- Try to read the signals coming from the patient.
- Wait for the signal from the leader of your group.
- When I give the signal, run!
- a faint signal from the satellite
- the signals that can indicate danger

- The rise in inflation is a clear signal that the government's policies are not working.
- a danger/distress signal
- hand signals

Derived Word †**signally**

verb (-ll-, US -l-)

**1. intransitive, transitive** to make a movement or sound to give sb a message, an order, etc

- Don't fire until I signal.
- Did you signal before you turned right?
- ~ **(to sb) (for sth)** He signalled to the waiter for the bill.
- ~ **to/for sb to do sth** He signalled to us to join him.
- The patrolman signalled for her to stop.
- ~ **sb to do sth** She signalled him to follow.
- ~ **sth** The referee signalled a foul.
- ~ **(that)...** She signalled (that) it was time to leave.
- ~ **which, what, etc...** You must signal which way you are going to turn.

**2. transitive** ~ **sth** to be a sign that sth exists or is likely to happen

Syn: †**indicate**

- This announcement signalled a clear change of policy.
- The scandal surely signals the end of his political career.

**3. transitive** to do sth to make your feelings or opinions known

- ~ **sth** He signalled his discontent by refusing to vote.
- ~ **(that)...** She has signalled (that) she is willing to stand as a candidate.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	signal
	BrE / 'sɪɡnəl/
	NAme / 'sɪɡnəl/
he / she / it	signals
	BrE / 'sɪɡnəlz/
	NAme / 'sɪɡnəlz/
past simple, past participle	signalled (US) signaled
	BrE / 'sɪɡnəld/
	NAme / 'sɪɡnəld/
-ing form	signalling (US) signaling
	BrE / 'sɪɡnəlɪŋ/
	NAme / 'sɪɡnəlɪŋ/

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**adj.** early 17th cent. French **signalé** Italian **segnalato** 'distinguished, made illustrious' **segnale** 'a signal'

Thesaurus:

**signal** verb I, T

- Don't fire until I signal.
- nod** • • **wave** • • **beckon** • |written **gesture** •  
 signal/nod/wave/beckon/gesture **to sb**  
 signal/nod/gesture **for sb to do sth**  
 signal/gesture **that** sb should do sth/it is time to do sth, etc.

Example Bank:

- A change of mind in one instance does not necessarily signal a change in overall policy.
- A fall in demand does not necessarily signal the death of the industry.
- He raised his hand and signalled for the waiter.
- I saw her signal frantically to us.
- She signalled frantically to us.
- She signalled to the bus driver to stop.
- These changes clearly signal the end of the welfare state as we know it.
- These events appeared to signal the end of an era.
- This address was meant to signal a change in policy.
- Always make sure you signal before you start to turn.
- Don't fire until I signal.
- Joe signalled to us to join him.
- Many animals use their tails to signal.
- She signalled that it was time to leave.
- The referee seemed to be signalling a foul.
- When I'm ready I'll signal with a flashlight.

**adjective only before noun** (formal)

**important and noticeable**

- a signal honour

- a signal failure of leadership

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## signal

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

1. **signal**<sup>1</sup> **S2 W2** /'sɪgnəl/ *BrE* " *AmE* " *noun* [countable]

[Word Family: **noun**: ↑sign, ↑signal, ↑signatory, ↑signature, ↑signing, ↑signaller; **verb**: ↑sign, ↑signal; **adverb**: ↑signally; **adjective**: signed ≠ unsigned]

[Date: 1300-1400; Language: Old French; Origin: **signale**, from Medieval Latin, from Late Latin **signalis** 'of a sign', from Latin **signum**: ⇒ ↑sign<sup>1</sup>]

1. a sound or an action that you make in order to give information to someone or tell them to do something

**signal (for somebody) to do something**

" When she got up from the table, it was obviously the signal for us to leave.

" At a prearranged signal the lights went out. ⇒ ↑smoke signal

2. an event or action that shows what someone feels, what exists, or what is likely to happen

**signal (that)**

" These results are a signal that the child may need special help.

**signal of**

" The opinion poll is a clear signal of people's dissatisfaction with the government.

" the danger signals of a heart attack

**send/give out a signal**

" We don't want to give out the wrong signal to investors.

3. a series of light waves, sound waves etc that carry an image, sound, or message, for example in radio or television

**send/transmit a signal**

" This new pay-TV channel sends signals via satellite to cable companies.

**receive/pick up/detect a signal**

" a small antenna which can receive radio signals

" The coastguard picked up a distress signal from a freighter 50 miles out at sea.

4. a piece of equipment with coloured lights, used on a railway to tell train drivers whether they can continue or must stop:

" a stop signal

" a signal failure (=when these lights do not work)

⇒ **busy signal** at ↑busy<sup>1</sup>(4)

• • •

### COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 2)

#### ■ ADJECTIVES/NOUN + signal

▪ **a clear/strong signal** My body was giving me a clear signal that something was wrong.

▪ **a warning/danger/alarm signal** (=a signal showing that there is danger) Managers should keep a watchful eye open for the danger signals.

▪ **the wrong signals** (=ones that do not give a true account of a situation) Reducing the penalty for marijuana use perhaps sends the wrong signal to teenagers.

▪ **mixed signals** (=ones that are confusing because they seem to show two different things) Our culture gives girls mixed messages about food, with skinny models and fast-food commercials competing for attention.

#### ■ verbs

▪ **send/give out a signal** The use of the army sends out a clear signal to protesters that their actions will not be tolerated.

▪ **read the signals** (=to understand signals correctly) President Nixon read the signals and decided it was time to resign.

• • •

### COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 3)

#### ■ verbs

▪ **send (out)/transmit a signal** The signals are transmitted via satellites.

▪ **emit a signal** (=sends one out) The device emits a signal which can be picked up by a submarine.

▪ **receive/pick up a signal** The antenna that will pick up the signals is a 12-metre dish.

▪ **carry a signal** (=allow it to travel along or through something) Copper wires carry the electrical signals.

▪ **a signal travels** (=goes across space, along a wire etc) The signal travels over the cable network.

#### ■ ADJECTIVES/NOUN + signal

▪ **strong** I can't use my phone because the signal isn't strong enough here.

▪ **weak/faint** The signals were too weak for the receiver to pick up.

▪ **a radio/electrical/radar signal** A transmitter connected to the door bell sends radio signals to a portable receiver.

▪ **a digital signal** Digital signals can be compressed to take up less space.

• • •

### THESAURUS

▪ **sign** [countable] an event, fact etc that shows that something is happening or that something is true or exists: The curtains were still drawn and there was no sign of activity. | A score of 80 or more is a sign that you are doing very well.

▪ **indication** [countable] a sign. **Indication** is more formal than **sign**: Recently there have been several indications of improving relations. | There was no indication the killings were related to the drug trade.

▪ **evidence** [uncountable] facts or signs that show clearly that something exists or is true, especially something that you are

trying to prove: Scientists are hoping to find evidence that there was once life on Mars. | There was not enough evidence to convict him of the murder.

▪ **symptom** [countable] a sign that someone has an illness or that a serious problem exists: The first symptoms are tiredness and loss of weight. | Is this a symptom of the decay of Western civilization?

▪ **indicator** [countable] a sign that shows you what is happening or what is true – used about a process, or about the state or level of something: There are a number of indicators of economic slowdown. | The tests are considered a good indicator of intelligence.

▪ **signal** [countable] a sign that shows that you should do something, or that you have a particular attitude: Severe chest pain is a warning signal that cannot be ignored. | Legalizing drugs could send the wrong signal to young people.

▪ **mark** [countable] a sign, especially that you respect or honour someone: People stood in silence as a mark of respect. | It was a mark of her popularity that so many colleagues and friends attended the presentation.

**II. signal**<sup>2</sup> *BrE* <sup>AmE</sup> *verb* (past tense and past participle **signalled**, present participle **signalling** *British English*, **signaled**, **signaling** *American English*)

[Word Family: noun: ↑sign, ↑signal, ↑signatory, ↑signature, ↑signing, ↑signaller; verb: ↑sign, ↑signal; adverb: ↑signally; adjective: signed ≠ unsigned]

1. [intransitive and transitive] to make a sound or an action in order to give information or tell someone to do something:

She signalled, and the waiter brought the bill.

The whistle signalled the end of the match.

**signal at**

Mary signalled wildly at them, but they didn't notice.

**signal to**

The judge signaled to a police officer and the man was led away.

**signal for**

He pushed his plate away and signalled for coffee.

**signal (to) somebody to do something**

She signalled to the children to come inside.

**signal that**

The bell signaled that school was over.

2. [transitive] to make something clear by what you say or do – used in news reports:

Both sides have signaled their willingness to start negotiations.

British sources last night signalled their readiness to talk.

**signal (that)**

The Prime Minister's speech today signals that there will be a shakeup in the cabinet.

3. [transitive] to be a sign that something is going to happen

**signal the start/beginning/end of something**

the lengthening days that signal the end of winter

4. [intransitive] to show the direction you intend to turn in a vehicle, using the lights **SYN indicate** *American English*:

Signal before you pull out.

**III. signal**<sup>3</sup> *BrE* <sup>AmE</sup> *adjective* [only before noun] **formal**

[Date: 1600-1700; Language: French; Origin: signalé, past participle of signaler 'to show a difference between', from Old Italian segnalare, from Medieval Latin signale; ⇔ ↑signal<sup>1</sup>]

important

**signal achievement/success/failure etc**

The university has done me the signal honour of making me an Honorary Fellow.

**signal**

Freakuency Pack

12500 **1992**<sup>MCW</sup>  
15000 **1592**<sup>COCA</sup>  
RANGE: **2k** **SIGNAL** 25297  
signal 12541  
signals 8697  
signalling 130  
signalled 159  
signaling 1536  
signalman 21  
signaled 2213

COCA 500k Unlemmatized  
5914 **3953**<sup>10197</sup> **nn1**  
1544 **15149**<sup>1671</sup> **vvi**  
592 **27968**<sup>626</sup> **vv0**  
26 **119480**<sup>42</sup> **np1**  
5 **387599**<sup>5</sup> **nnu**