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signal 1

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Syllabification: sig·nal

[Pronunciation](#): /'sɪgnəl/

noun

1 A [gesture](#), [action](#), or sound that is used to [convey](#) information or [instructions](#), typically by [prearrangement](#) between the [parties concerned](#): *the [firing](#) of the [gun](#) was the **signal for** a chain of [beacons](#) to be [lit](#) [with infinitive]: the [policeman raised his hand](#) as a signal to [stop](#)*

More example sentences

- Jumping onto a table, Crush raised her hands in the air as a signal for her friends to stop they were doing; she watched as they obliged, halting their food war.
- Tired, grumpy, she waved her hand as a signal for me to come in.
- So we waited for either John our floor warden to let us know what we should do, or for an evacuation signal to sound.
- [Get more examples](#)

Synonyms

[gesture](#), [sign](#), [wave](#), gesticulation, [cue](#), indication, warning, [motion](#)

[View synonyms](#)

1.1 An [indication](#) of a [state of affairs](#): *the [markets](#) are [waiting](#) for a [clear](#) signal about the [direction](#) of [policy](#)*

More example sentences

- Education Leeds assistant chief executive Roland Absalom said it was a clear signal that the situation was improving.
- The data on rising earnings comes amid conflicting signals about the job situation for technology professionals in the United States.
- When the stressful situation ends, hormonal signals switch off the stress response and the body returns to normal.
- [Get more examples](#)

Synonyms

[indication](#), [sign](#), [symptom](#), [hint](#), [pointer](#), [intimation](#), [clue](#), demonstration, evidence, proof

[View synonyms](#)

1.2 An [event](#) or [statement](#) that [provides](#) the [impulse](#) or [occasion](#) for something specified to [happen](#): *the [champion's announcement](#) that he was retiring was the **signal for** [scores](#) of [journalists](#) to [gather](#) at his last [match](#)*

More example sentences

- A drop in the intracellular concentration of glutamine provides a signal for the activation of transcription of nitrogen-regulated genes.
- The oxidative stress caused by ozone may serve as the initial signal for programmed cell death and a hypersensitive response.
- Gerard Rice made it 2-1 for Newcastle midway through the second half, a signal for the Seasiders to turn up the pressure.
- [Get more examples](#)

Synonyms

E-Watch, INC.

Exh. 2012

Petitioner, HFC Corporation et al.

cue, prompt, impetus, stimulus

informal go-ahead

[View synonyms](#)

1.3 An [apparatus](#) on a [railroad](#), typically a [colored light](#) or a [semaphore](#), giving [indications](#) to [train engineers](#) of whether or not the line is [clear](#).

Example sentences

- At one point, we had to stop at an interlocking and the dispatcher couldn't clear the signal because of the train ahead.
- At the Hayward's Heath accident in 1973 the driver misread the signals and drove his loopline train on to the main line and it was struck from behind by an express.
- Mitchell said police had yet to determine whether the railway signals and gates were working at the time of the crash.
- [Get more examples](#)

1.4 *Bridge* A [prearranged convention](#) of [bidding](#) or [play intended](#) to [convey](#) information to one's [partner](#).

Example sentences

- Make an agreement with your partner to look for the signal after each time that the cards are swept away.
- When playing against a trump contract this can be achieved by a simple system of discard signals.
- Naturally they will try to do this while the opponents are not looking, but as the signals do not need to be true, you can also try to confuse the opponents by passing misleading signals, at the risk of confusing your partner as well.
- [Get more examples](#)

2 An electrical [impulse](#) or [radio wave transmitted](#) or [received](#): *equipment for receiving TV signals*

More example sentences

- Each cell has a base station that transmits and receives signals over just a small fraction of the frequencies to which the network operator has access.
- These chips feature an antenna to transmit and receive radio signals.
- The development of the electromagnet about 1837 provided the American Samuel F. B. Morse with a way to transmit and receive electric signals.
- [Get more examples](#)

verb (signals, signaling, signaled ; chiefly *British* signals, signalling, signalled)

[no object] [Back to top](#)

1 [Transmit](#) information or [instructions](#) by means of a [gesture](#), [action](#), or sound: *hold your [fire](#) until I signal*

More example sentences

- Madoka's father must have handed the parking attendant a tip ahead of time with instructions to signal when Madoka and her mother arrived.
- Claire no sooner had entered the EMS station that the bell sounded, signaling that they were needed somewhere to help somebody.
- After what seemed like an eternity to Jalen, the hunting horn sounded, signaling in the hunt's end.
- [Get more examples](#)

1.1 [with object and infinitive] [Instruct](#) (someone) to do something by means of [gestures](#) or signs rather than [explicit](#) orders: *she signaled [Charlotte](#) to be [silent](#)*

More example sentences

- I made motions with my hand signaling Elizabeth to keep it down.
- She gave the thumbs-up sign to her mechanic, signaling him to get out of the way.
- He leaned back and waved his hand signalling Andrea to go over to him.

- [Get more examples](#)

Synonyms

gesture, **sign**, give a sign to, direct, **motion**;

wave, **beckon**, **nod**

[View synonyms](#)

1.2(Of a **cyclist**, **motorist**, or **vehicle**) indicate an **intention** to **turn** in a specified **direction using** an **extended** arm or **flashing indicator**: *[with complement]: Stone signaled **right** [with infinitive]: the **truck** signaled to **turn** left*

More example sentences

- His report also states that the defendant vehicle signaled and turned left onto Orenda.
- That may lead to the issue of whether he was simply following this tractor trailer too closely or whether, in fact, if the tractor trailer wasn't signaling.
- It may be a split second of indecision at a roundabout, a moment's inattention while pulling out of a parking space, a failure to spot another driver signalling.
- [Get more examples](#)

1.3Indicate the **existence** or **occurrence** of (something) by **actions** or sounds: *[with object]: they could signal **displeasure** by **refusing** to **cooperate** [with clause]: she gave a **glance** that signaled that her **father** was being **secretive***

More example sentences

- Counselors need to understand that the sound of sirens may signal danger to them.
- She recognized the sound - it signalled a weapons lock-on.
- For the best part of a century, that clanging sound signalled the abrupt end of an English night out.
- [Get more examples](#)

Synonyms

indicate, show, **express**, communicate, proclaim, declare

[View synonyms](#)

Derivatives

signaler

1

Pronunciation: /'signələr/

noun

Example sentences

- The event on Saturday was aimed at highlighting the 15,000 jobs in more than 140 trades which the Army has to offer, with engineers, signallers, guardsmen and mechanics among those on hand to talk to young people and their families.
- About 300 engineers and 700 signallers will be recruited from school leavers, graduates, those who took early retirement, people returning from a career break and professional engineers.
- Thousands of drivers, signallers and maintenance workers walked out from 6.30 pm yesterday causing the worst travel disruption in the capital for two years.
- [Get more examples](#)

Origin

Late Middle English: from **Old French**, from **medieval Latin** *signale*, neuter of **late Latin** *signalis*, from **Latin** *signum* 'mark, token' (see [sign](#)). The verb dates from the early 19th century.