

Written response

1.2 Methods of cataloguing

The street

'Species Of Spaces And Other Places' by Georges Perec

Original texts

Only infrequently are there **trees** in the streets. When there are, They have **railings** round them. On the other hand, most -streets are equipped with specific amenities corresponding to various services. Thus there are **street lights** which go on automatically as soon as the daylight begins to decline to any significant degree; **stopping places** at which **passengers** can wait for **buses** or **taxis**; **telephone kiosks**, **public benches**; **boxes** into which citizens may put letters which the **postal services** will come to collect at set times; **clockwork mechanisms** intended to receive the money necessary for a limited amount of parking time; **baskets reserved** for waste paper and other detritus, into which numbers of people compulsively cast a furtive glance as they pass; **traffic lights**. There are likewise traffic signs indicating, for example, that it is appropriate to park on this side of the street or that according to whether we are in the first or second fortnight of the month (what is known as **'alternate side parking'**), or that **silence** is to be observed in the vicinity of a hospital, or, finally and especially, that the street is **one-way**. Such is the density of motor traffic indeed that movement would be almost impossible if it had not become customary, in the last few years, in a majority of built-up areas, to force motorists to circulate in one direction only, which, obviously, sometimes obliges them to make long detours.

Street elements mentioned by the authors

Tree
Railing
Street light
Stopping place
Passenger
Bus
Taxi
Telephone kiosk
Public benche
Box
Postal service
Clockwork mechanism
Basket reserved
Traffic light
Alternate side parking
Silence sign
One-way street

Additions based on my life experience

Two-way street
Cycle
Zebra crossing
Traffic island
CCTV
Road markings
Eg, white lines, red lines, yellow lines.

Classification notes:

Perec (1974, p. 50)mentions that when you observe the street, you must set about it more slowly, almost stupidly. Force yourself to record even the uninteresting, the most obvious, the most common, and the most mundane details. I started to observe and catalog the street with which I am familiar, noting down various details such as *the function, position, vitality, form, and sound of street materials*.

Fuction

(Caption:Categorize the items based on their functions)

Traffic fuction	Convenience function
Street light	Tree
Stopping place	Railing
Basket reserved	Passenger
Traffic light	Bus
Alternate side parking	Taxi
Silence sign	Telephone kiosk
One-way street	Public benche
Two-way street	Box
Zebra crossing	Postal service
Traffic island	Clockwork mechanism
CCTV	Basket reserved
Road markings	Cycle

Position

(Caption: The items are categorized based on their duration in the field area)

Permanent	Temporary
Tree	Passenger
Railing	Bus
Street light	Taxi
Stopping place	Postal service
Telephone kiosk	Cycle
Public benche	
Box	
Clockwork mechanism	
Basket reserved	
Traffic light	
Alternate side parking	
Silence sign	
One-way street	
Two-way street	
Zebra crossing	
Traffic island	
CCTV	
Road markings	

Vitality

(Caption: Classify items based on their viability and life path)

Being	Lifeless
Tree	Railing
Passenger	*Street light
Postal service	Stopping place
	*Bus
	*Taxi
	Telephone kiosk
	Public benche
	Box
	*Clockwork mechanism
	Basket reserved
	*Traffic light
	Alternate side parking
	Silence sign
	One-way street
	Two-way street
	*Cycle
	Zebra crossing
	Traffic island
	*CCTV
	Road markings
	<i>*The object lacks inherent signs of life but can be activated by human behavior.</i>

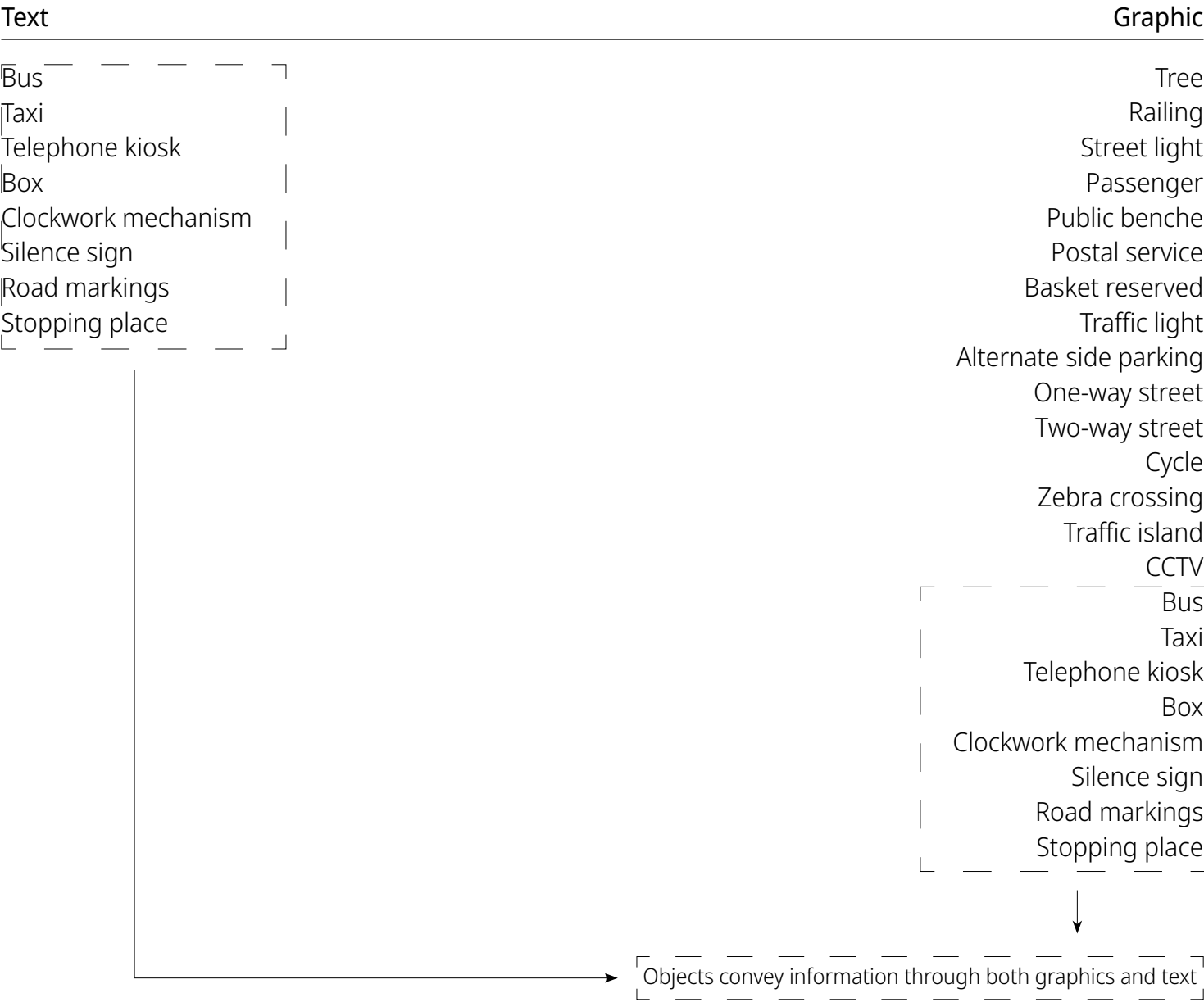
Sound

(Caption:Items are categorized based on their sound production)

Sing	Speech-Impaired
Tree	Railing
Passenger	Street light
Bus	Stopping place
Taxi	Public benche
Telephone kiosk	Box
Postal service	Basket reserved
Clockwork mechanism	Alternate side parking
Traffic light	Silence sign
Cycle	One-way street
Traffic island	Two-way street
	Zebra crossing
	CCTV
	Road markings

Form

(Caption: Items are categorized based on whether their primary function is conveyed through graphics or text)



Reference list

Perec, G. (1974) *Species of Spaces and Other Places*. London: Penguin.