A system of architectural symbols are used to indicate commonly used materials and features that have been developed over the years. To read an architectural plan readily, you must have a good understanding of what the symbols represent on a drawing. It is not necessary to develop total recall of each symbol, but it is important to recognize what material or component each symbol represents when a construction drawing. Symbols are designed to approximate the appearance of the material, fixture, or component. There are hundreds of different types of symbols, some of the more commonly seen symbols on a construction plan are the door, window, and electrical symbol.

Typical door symbols
Typical Window Symbols

Florence Light Fixture
Wall and Ceiling Light Fixture
Duplex Convenience Outlet
Three Wire, Appliance Outlet
Floor Outlet
Television Outlet

Typical electrical symbol
Typical plumbing symbols

HVAC symbols