



PEDESTRIAN *SAFETY BASICS*

6th Grade Curriculum



Who is a Pedestrian?

A pedestrian is anyone traveling on foot, in wheelchairs or on small rideable devices, like skateboards or scooters.

At some point in the day, almost everyone is a pedestrian!



Why Does Pedestrian Safety Matter?

Because **your**
safety matters!

The numbers
aren't good,
and we want to
change that.

SOURCE: www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/pedestrian-safety

In the U.S. in 2022:

7,522 pedestrians
were killed

67,000+ pedestrians
were injured

17% of children 14 and
younger killed in traffic
crashes were pedestrians

Common Pedestrian *Hazards*



Here are just a few of the hazards pedestrians face:

- Distracted drivers
- Speeding cars
- Poor visibility

Let's talk about how to
keep yourself safe.



HEY PEDESTRIANS, HEADS UP!

Pedestrian Safety Basics



 **PLAY VIDEO**

Distractions = Hazards

Stay alert while walking! You don't want to run into something — or not realize something is about to run into you.

DON'T WALK WHILE LOOKING AT YOUR PHONE. Distracted walking causes accidents.

KEEP HEADPHONES OFF. You need to hear what is going on around you.

THERE IS SAFETY IN NUMBERS — but when walking with friends, don't distract each other from being safe.





Recognizing Crosswalks

Did you know there are two kinds of crosswalks?

Always use one of these — never cross in the middle of the street or between parked cars.

Marked

- A marked crosswalk has painted lines on the street marking the boundaries of the crosswalk.
- You should always cross at marked crosswalks when they are available. They're the safest place to cross!

Unmarked

- An unmarked crosswalk is typically at the intersection of two streets and does not have any painted markings.



CROSS LIKE A BOSS!

Pedestrian Safety Basics



 **PLAY VIDEO**



Crosswalk *Rules*

Here's how to cross like a boss:

1

STOP at the edge of the curb **BEFORE** you get to the street.

2

LOOK left-right-left. Watch for cars that are turning or speeding.

3

WAIT until cars stop before stepping out.

4

MAKE EYE CONTACT with drivers and wait until they see you.

5

WALK into the street and cross quickly and safely.

6

STAY ALERT as you cross.

Understanding Pedestrian Signals

Both marked and unmarked crosswalks may have an electronic pedestrian signal.

Here's how to use it:



Walk

White or green, sometimes shows a person walking. Look left-right-left and cross. Watch for turning cars!



Don't Walk

Red or orange, sometimes shows a hand. Means what it says — stop!



Flashing Don't Walk or Countdown

Finish crossing if you're already in the intersection. If not, don't start!

What Drivers are *Supposed to Do*

Drivers are supposed to yield to pedestrians at a crosswalk, meaning they should stop when they see you waiting to cross. But not all drivers follow the rules.

Don't assume that drivers see you, and don't assume that they will stop for you!





Planning a Safe Route

You want to get where you're going safely. Here's how to plan a safe route.

- Stick to roads with sidewalks, marked crosswalks and pedestrian signals when possible.
- Walk along roads with lower speed limits.
- Avoid shortcuts through parking lots or alleys.
- Use the safest route, even if it takes longer.

NOW THAT'S **STREET SMART!**

What's one thing you
can do to be a safer
pedestrian today?

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