



ADVANCED PEDESTRIAN *SAFETY*

7th Grade Curriculum



Time to Level Up

**You know the basics of pedestrian safety.
Now it's time to level up.**

**What do you do when things aren't
clearly marked?**

How do you stay safe in tricky situations?

Let's find out.



Quick Review – *Pedestrian Basics*

1

STAY ALERT.
No phones or
headphones!

2

USE sidewalks
when possible.

3

CROSS at marked
crosswalks or
pedestrian signals.

4

OBEY traffic signs
and signals.

5

Look left-right-left
BEFORE crossing.

6

Make **EYE CONTACT**
with drivers.

Not every place has sidewalks,
pedestrian signals or marked crosswalks.



How do you **stay safe?**

Unmarked Crosswalks & Intersections

Marked crosswalks are the safest spot for pedestrians to cross, especially when there is a pedestrian signal present. But if there's not a marked crosswalk? The next best thing is to cross at an intersection where two streets meet.

DON'T cross mid-block or between parked cars!

Drivers are supposed to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and keep an eye out for them elsewhere — **but don't count on it.**

Always look **left-right-left**, wait and make eye contact with drivers before crossing.

Rural Roads

A lot of Arkansans live out in the country. Being a safe pedestrian can look a little different outside of cities.

Rural areas often have no sidewalks, higher speeds and fewer traffic signs, and drivers aren't usually expecting pedestrians.





Walk on the **LEFT SIDE** of the road, against the flow of traffic so you can see cars coming.

Wear **BRIGHT OR REFLECTIVE** gear.

Be **EXTRA** careful near curves, hills and driveways.

Step **OFF THE ROAD** when needed to give space.

Crossing in **Unmarked Areas**

What if there's
no intersection?
No crosswalk? No
signal? You got this.

Choose a **VISIBLE, STRAIGHT** section of road.

Avoid curves or hills where drivers will have **BLIND SPOTS**.

Look **LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT** and cross when there's a safe gap in traffic.

NEVER assume drivers will stop for you!

Parking Lots Are No Joke



Thousands of pedestrians get hit in parking areas every year. Why are they so risky?

People aren't paying attention like they do on the road. Cars back out fast, lanes are narrow and drivers may not see you.

When possible, walk in front of cars, not behind them. Stay alert — no phones or headphones.



ROUNDAABOUTS are more and more common, and they improve pedestrian safety (yay!). But you still need to do a few things to stay safe.

1

Cross at marked crosswalks, which are usually outside the main traffic circle.

2

Look both ways, even if traffic is only moving in one direction.

3

Wait until all lanes are clear before crossing.



Pedestrian Safety at Night & in Bad Weather

Rain, fog, snow, darkness = risky for pedestrians.

- Use sidewalks when possible.
- Wear bright, reflective clothing and carry a flashlight.
- Avoid walking on narrow roads in bad conditions.
- Take it easy to avoid falls.

Walking the Dog

**Dogs can be our best friends!
But you + dog = double the
responsibility when walking.**

- Use a short leash — no retractables near roads!
- Keep your dog on the side away from traffic to protect them from cars.
- Don't wrap the leash around your hand.
- Pick up after your dog and stay alert.



Distractions Get More Dangerous



You're older now and may have more independence — so distractions are an even bigger risk.

Maybe you're walking to the store, listening to music, texting a friend — and you don't see the car turning toward you. Disaster.

Stay alert. Always.



Be a *Safety Leader*

Now that you know what is safe and what's risky — **SPEAK UP.**

If a friend walks into the street without looking, call them back.

If the group wants to cross mid-block, suggest walking to an intersection.

Make the safer choice, even if no one's watching.

You can also advocate for safer streets in your community and make a difference. Write to your city council or mayor about:

**High-visibility
marked crosswalks**



**Brighter lighting in
high-traffic areas**



**Improved
pedestrian signage**

NOW THAT'S **STREET SMART!**

What's a pedestrian
situation you feel more
confident handling now?

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