

Read the article. Which suggestion do you think is the most useful?

The most dangerous place in the world to cross the road



If you want to cross the road in most countries, you wait for a gap in the traffic, and then you cross. But not in Ho Chi Minh City, where there's never a gap in the traffic. Apart from the cars, lorries, bikes, and buses, there are millions of motorbikes and scooters, which are the most popular form of transport in Vietnam. Crossing the road is an adventure, and many tourists find it impossible. So what can you do?

Keep walking. The receptionist at my hotel told me, 'When it feels right, walk into the road. The most important thing to remember is to keep walking. Don't stop. Don't run. Don't look left or right. And don't walk in front of a bus, because they can't stop easily.'

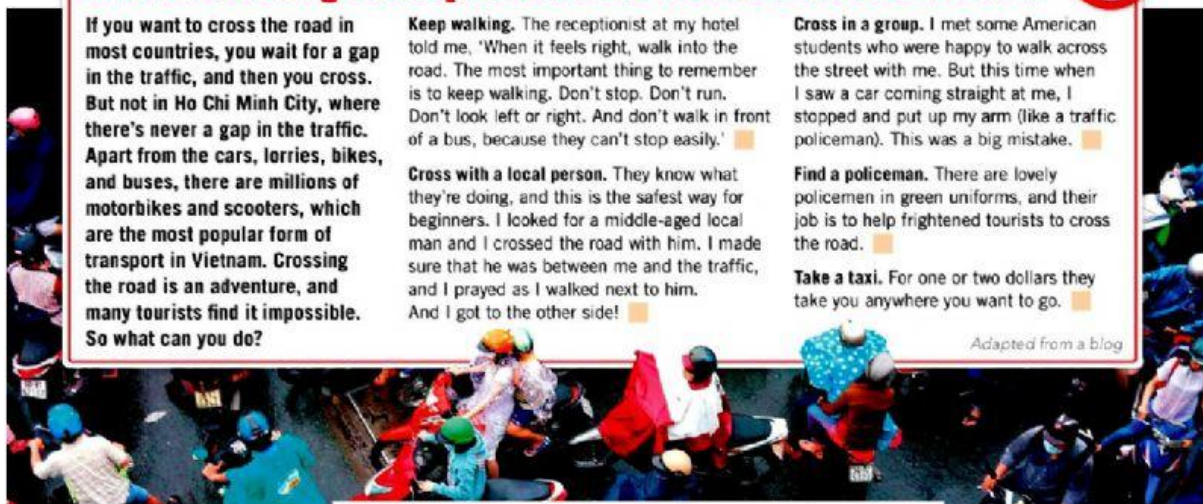
Cross with a local person. They know what they're doing, and this is the safest way for beginners. I looked for a middle-aged local man and I crossed the road with him. I made sure that he was between me and the traffic, and I prayed as I walked next to him. And I got to the other side!

Cross in a group. I met some American students who were happy to walk across the street with me. But this time when I saw a car coming straight at me, I stopped and put up my arm (like a traffic policeman). This was a big mistake.

Find a policeman. There are lovely policemen in green uniforms, and their job is to help frightened tourists to cross the road.

Take a taxi. For one or two dollars they take you anywhere you want to go.

Adapted from a blog



Read the article again. Complete the paragraphs with sentences A–E.

- A All you need to do is smile and wave to them.
- B The only thing that saved me was a student who shouted, 'Don't stop, keep walking!'
- C So if you really can't cross the road, you can get a taxi to take you to the other side.
- D When I heard this I thought, 'Maybe it's better to just stay in my hotel and read!'
- E The second time I chose a woman selling vegetables with baskets full of sweet potatoes, and again I survived.

Think of your town or city and answer the following questions:

1. What's the most popular form of transport in your town or city?
2. In what part of town and at what time of day is the traffic worst?
3. How do you normally get around?
4. Do cars always stop at zebra crossing?
5. Are there any streets that are really difficult to cross?
6. Is there any town or city you visited where you had problems crossing the road, or where you found the traffic really frightening?

Vocabulary help:



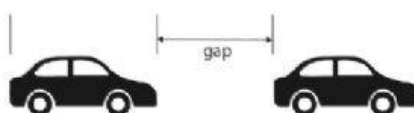
BEGINNER



PRAY



ZEBRA CROSSING



WAVE



KEEP = CONTINUE

FRIGHTENED = SCARED

GET AROUND = TRAVEL FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER



BASKET