

TEXTING* AND WALKING



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I You see them everywhere: people texting on their cellphones while crossing busy streets. But walking and texting is dangerous, so cities around the world are now doing something about it. For example, last year the city of Honolulu passed a new law against texting while crossing the road. Anyone who does that must pay 35 dollars. Honolulu is the first American city to pass such a law.

1. What problem do we read about in paragraph I?
 - i) People talk on their cellphones all the time.
 - ii) People walk on busy city streets.
 - iii) People cross the road while texting.

2. Why is Honolulu mentioned in paragraph I?
 - i) It was the first American city to pass a law against texting.
 - ii) It is dangerous to cross the roads there.
 - iii) It passed many laws against using cellphones.

(7 points)

(7 points)

5 **II** Today, more and more people are using cellphones. There are also more pedestrians who are killed in road accidents. Researchers are trying to find out if texting and walking is the reason for the increase in pedestrian deaths. Some studies show that pedestrians who text and walk will often do dangerous things. For example, they might forget to look left and right before they cross the road. They might even cross the road on a red light.

3. What are researchers trying to find out? (paragraph II)

- i) If using cellphones is dangerous.
- ii) If texting while walking causes road accidents.
- iii) If there is an increase in road accidents.

(7 points)

4. Give ONE dangerous thing that people who walk and text might do. (paragraph II)

ANSWER:

(8 points)

10 **III** Several other cities have found creative ways to help protect people who talk on their cellphones or send text messages while they are walking. In Hayward, California, for example, there are signs at crosswalks that say: "Look Up At the Light! Cross the Street! Then Look At Your Phone!"

5. How does the city of Hayward protect pedestrians? (paragraph III)

- i) It sends them messages.
- ii) It puts up special signs for them.
- iii) It asks them not to use their phones on the street.

(7 points)

IV A small town near Amsterdam is trying something different. The town put lights on the crosswalk at a busy corner. People who look down at their phones will also see these lights. When the traffic lights for pedestrians turn green, the lights on the crosswalk turn green too. This shows pedestrians that it's safe to cross. If this idea works, the town will put these lights at more busy corners.

6. Why did the small town near Amsterdam put lights on a crosswalk? (paragraph IV)

- i) To help people read their messages.
- ii) To show people where to walk.
- iii) To tell people when it's safe to cross.

(8 points)

7. What will the town do if its idea is successful? (paragraph IV)

ANSWER:

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(8 points)

V "People are slow to accept new ideas," says a Honolulu lawyer. "But in the end there is hope because everybody understands the value of public safety."

8. Why is the Honolulu lawyer hopeful? (paragraph V)

ANSWER:

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(8 points)