

Pocketsize Road Safety (KS2)

Road safety and distractions (Part 1)

1. Spot the difference

Spot the differences in the two sets of pictures below. Give yourself just 3 minutes. After one minute get a family member to start talking to you loudly or switch on some loud music. Try to ignore and focus on your task!



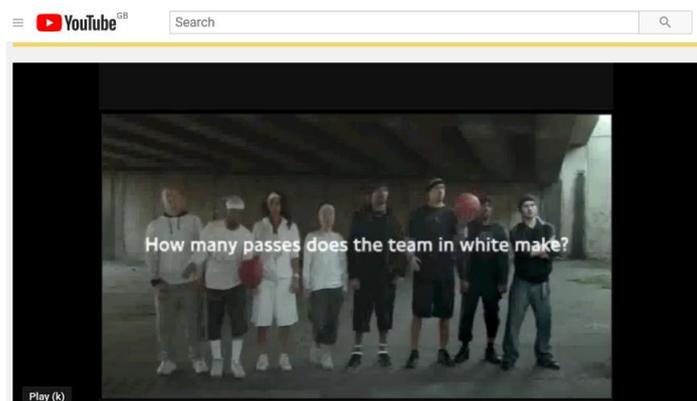
Did you manage to spot the 15 differences?

Did it make it difficult to finish the task when you were being distracted?

We can easily be distracted from watching for traffic and whilst crossing the road.

2. Take the distractions test

Watch this YouTube clip. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNSgmm9FX2s>



How many passes does the white basketball team make?

Did you see the **moon walking bear..?**

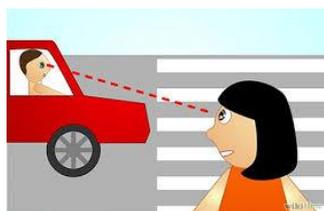
Did you know?

New research from America and Canada has shown:

- that children who talk on phones while crossing streets were 43 per cent more likely to be hit by a vehicle or have a close call when they were on the phone.
- that text messages were the most dangerous distraction. Texters were much less likely to look left and right before crossing the street.



One clear way to reduce accidents due to not paying attention is to have both pedestrians and drivers not doing things that distract them.



For pedestrians, most of the information is obtained by **watching** traffic and we can also make **eye contact** with drivers.

‘Distracted walking’ can result in minor accidents such as walking into objects like lamp posts and bins or other people, but it can also lead to more serious injuries if a distracted pedestrian causes a car accident.

3. What can distract us when out walking?

Here’s a short list of distractions in the table.

- a) Can you add some more?
- b) What do you feel are the top three most common distractions? Tick your top three.
- c) What advice would you give to avoid the distraction and improve the walker’s safety?

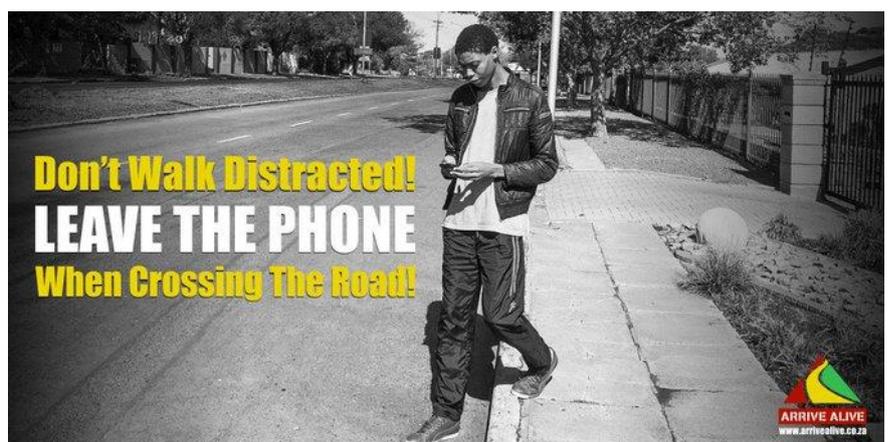
Distraction	Your top three (tick)	What could you do instead?
Mobile phone conversation		
Text messaging		
Listening to music		

(More distractions on page 4)

4. Draw a poster or come up with a slogan.

To encourage pedestrians to stop using their phones when crossing the road and cross safely. Examples are below.

You'll need a sheet of paper and some coloured pens/pencils or paints.



Here's a bigger list of distractions and some ways to avoid them.

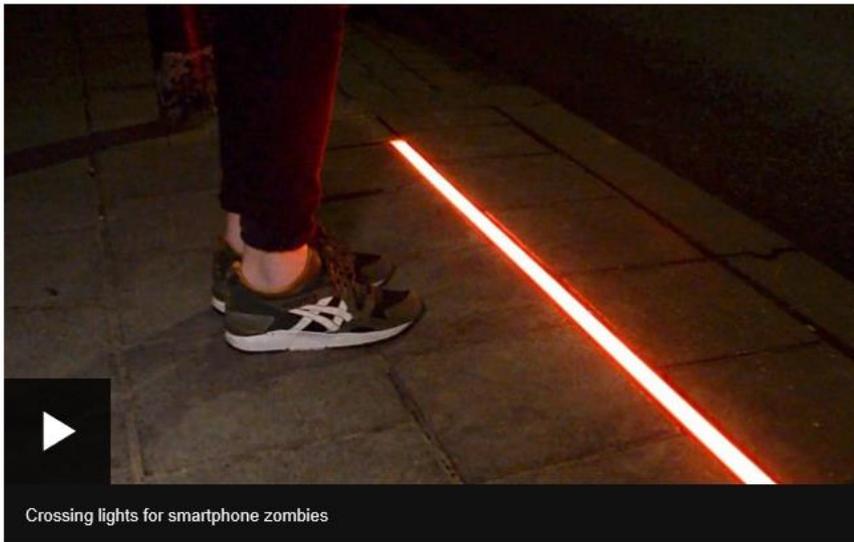
Distraction	What could you do instead?
Mobile phone conversation	Switch off your phone. Put it on mute. Stay stationary and find a safe place well away from the road if you have to call someone. Your life is more important than the conversation simply stop, use their phones later, and wait until they reach their destination to finally check their text messages. Don't walk and talk on mobile devices in traffic!
Text messaging	Texting should be done when you are in a standstill position or sitting down.
Listening to music	Be fully aware of your surroundings – don't let the music take your attention away from the sound of oncoming vehicles, hooting or sirens
Looking at something other than the road and the traffic	Keep your goal of crossing the road safely in mind and focus on your main task. If it's something interesting on the other side of the road, concentrate first on getting across then taking a really good look when up close.
Conversation with friends	At crossings, do not assume that you have the right of way and that cars will stop for you! The driver might be distracted. Don't assume your friends have looked for you and are thinking of your safety. You need to be responsible for your own safety.
Eating and drinking on the move	Stop somewhere nice and enjoy your food and drink. Better for your digestion too. You're probably rushing too which could be a bad move when about to cross the road.
Looking at one's watch or Fitbit	If you need to check the time or data on your Fitbit, STOP and stay stationary.
Trying to find something in your backpack or luggage	Again, stop still and get that sorted before moving on, crossing the road etc. Make sure you are standing well away from the road and in a safe place.
Reading a newspaper, book etc	Take a sit down and do this without moving. Dangerous on the move.
Daydreaming	Remember moving vehicles are extremely dangerous and we can get seriously hurt or killed if a vehicle hits us. Keep your goal of crossing the road safely in mind and focus on your main task. Be considerate to the passing drivers who will expect you as a pedestrian to play your part in road safety.
Playing games/balls	Don't! Put your ball in a bag or keep it safely under your arm. Find a place where you can play such as the park, skatepark etc.
Jogging or running	Look for an off-road location. Go out with a responsible adult who can help you take a safe route and keep safe.

Pocketsize Road Safety (KS2 age 10 and 11)

Road safety and distractions (Part 2)

1. Pavement lights guide 'smartphone zombies'

Have a look at this BBC report about a Dutch town where lights have been put in the pavement to help smart phone users cross the road. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-38992653>



Pavement lights have been installed at a pedestrian crossing in a Netherlands town to help smartphone users cross the road safely.

Do you think it's a good idea or reward's bad (risky) behaviour?

What do you think about them being put close to three schools?

Did you now?

According to Wikipedia, the term Smartphone zombie or 'Smombie' has been used to describe pedestrians who walk slowly without attention to what's around them because they are looking at their smartphones. Safety concerns have been noted due to such distracted pedestrians.



We don't have such lights in this country, and I don't think they'll be coming anytime soon ...



In 2016, the Swedish Transport Agency reported that 650 Swedes had been injured in smartphone-related accidents needing emergency care.

About the same time, these road safety warning signs popped up throughout the Swedish capital. They show a male and female pedestrian with their eyes glued to phone screens.

Thank you for tackling these tasks and thinking about how distractions can make it very dangerous when crossing the road.

Ray Hughes, Active Travel and Road Safety Officer.