

## Texting while walking is dangerous

12th March



Reading or writing text messages while you are walking is dangerous. A new study says it is more dangerous than texting while driving. The study is from the University of Buffalo in the USA. Researchers found that there are more injuries per kilometer to texting pedestrians than there are to texting motorists. Their report says walking is not as easy as we think it is. We need to focus on many

things at the same time to walk safely in a straight line. The research team said that people forget how to walk properly, so dangerous things happen to them. They bump into walls and other people, walk into cars, fall over things in the street, and even fall into holes or down stairs.

A University of Buffalo professor said walking is a complex action. He said there are several reasons why texting stops people from walking properly. One reason is that they cannot see the path ahead of them. Another is that they are focused on their fingers on their mobile phone keyboard instead of their feet on the street. A final reason is that their minds are somewhere else and not on thinking about walking from A to B safely. The professor said over 6,000 people visited his hospital last year because they were injured while texting. He said the worst cases are head injuries. When a pedestrian is tossed into the air after being hit by a car, he/she has nothing to protect the head, and the damage can be serious.

Sources: *HotHardware.com* / *WTop.com*

## Writing

*Texting while walking is dangerous. It should be illegal. Discuss.*

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*text messages / dangerous / study / injuries / walking / straight line / research / holes / professor / properly / path / keyboard / final reason / worst cases / hospital / serious*

## True / False

- It is more dangerous to text while walking than while driving. T / F
- A study says people who text and walk are injured every kilometer. T / F
- Researchers said walking isn't as easy as we think it is. T / F
- The article says people who walk and text often fall up stairs. T / F
- A professor said people do not focus on their feet when they text. T / F
- The professor said people who text are absent-minded. T / F
- 60,000 people visited the professor in 2013 because of texting injuries. T / F
- The professor said the worst texting injuries are head injuries. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. study     | a. complicated |
| 2. found     | b. correctly   |
| 3. motorists | c. thrown      |
| 4. properly  | d. discovered  |
| 5. things    | e. in front    |
| 6. complex   | f. report      |
| 7. ahead     | g. safeguard   |
| 8. injured   | h. drivers     |
| 9. tossed    | i. hurt        |
| 10. protect  | j. stuff       |

## Discussion – Student A

- If a car hits a texting pedestrian, whose fault is it?
- If a texting pedestrian bumped into you and injured you, what would you do?
- Will you stop texting while walking?
- Do you check Facebook, Twitter or other things while walking?
- Why can't people wait until they stop walking to text?
- What do you think of cyclists who text?
- Should pedestrians wear a helmet as protection against injury?
- What questions would you like to ask the professor?

## Phrase Match

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. writing text messages     | a. line                       |
| 2. it is more dangerous      | b. keyboard                   |
| 3. walking is not as         | c. over things                |
| 4. in a straight             | d. are head injuries          |
| 5. fall                      | e. easy as we think it is     |
| 6. there are several reasons | f. while you are walking      |
| 7. mobile phone              | g. A to B safely              |
| 8. walking from              | h. be serious                 |
| 9. the worst cases           | i. than texting while driving |
| 10. the damage can           | j. why                        |

## Discussion – Student B

- Do you think texting is useful? Why?
- Are you good at texting while you walk?
- Do you think texting while walking is dangerous?
- Have you ever bumped into someone or fallen over?
- Why is texting more dangerous while walking than while driving?
- Do we really need to focus a lot on walking in a straight line?
- Can you text and do other things properly at the same time?
- Some people think texting while walking should be illegal. Do you?

## Spelling

- text aseesmgs
- there are more eujnrisi
- texting iardspseent
- texting ismtotsor
- walk safely in a rtsghait line
- forget how to walk porrlype
- walking is a lcoxemp action
- there are resleav reasons why
- on their mobile phone oybrkdea
- walking from A to B yslaef
- nothing to pcteot the head
- the damage can be sesroi

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. h	4. b	5. j
6. a	7. e	8. i	9. c	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – Fast food

You think fast food is the biggest danger. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): skiing, texting while walking or a stressful job.

### Role B – Skiing

You think skiing is the biggest danger. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): fast food, texting while walking or a stressful job.

### Role C – Texting while walking

You think texting while walking is the biggest danger. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): skiing, fast food or a stressful job.

### Role D – A stressful job

You think a stressful job is the biggest danger. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): skiing, texting while walking or fast food.

## Speaking –

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest dangers at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- skiing
- cycling in a city
- playing soccer
- stressful jobs
- texting while walking
- eating fast food
- earphones at full volume
- not wearing a seatbelt

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.