

Hazard Hunt

Teacher Notes

Description

When we travel the same route every day - sometimes several times a day - it's easy to go into auto-pilot and be totally oblivious to potential hazards. This game is designed to make the class more aware of their environment.

Time to complete

Interactive game: About 20 minutes

Paper alternative: 20+ minutes

How to use

- Look at the street scene and try to spot all 11 road safety hazards.
- When a hazard is spotted allow pupils to explain the hazard and give advice on a safe way to avoid the situation.
- If individual computer access is not available complete the game on interactive whiteboards, in teams or individually.
- The paper alternative can be used if no computer equipment is available. These can be downloaded from the "Your Call" website.

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Discussion points

How easy was it to find all the hazards? Which ones did you miss?
Why do you think that is?

1. When do you think roads are at their most dangerous?

- During busy times of day: On our way to and from school and when it's dark.
- During bad weather: Rain and ice can make roads slippery so cars can take longer to brake. Severe winds can seriously impact upon heavy vehicles.
- During good weather: Strong sunlight can momentarily blind drivers.
- Road works: Lane closures may mean that drivers are unsure of their route.

2. What can you do to be safe when you're out and about?

- Always find a safe place to cross.
- Don't rush. Leave plenty of time for your journey.
- Never assume that a driver or cyclist has seen you or can stop in time to avoid you.
- Make sure you can be seen when it's dark. Cyclists should wear bright reflective clothing and check their lights work before setting off. If a vehicle can't see you, it can't avoid you.

3. What makes a responsible driver?

- A responsible driver always considers the safety of all other road users and anticipates their actions. This can be achieved by following the rules drivers are legally required to abide by.
- Safe driving needs concentration. Avoid distractions - using a hand-held mobile phone or similar device, changing music, eating, drinking, smoking.

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- Drivers need to be calm and courteous. Aggression or 'road rage' affects our ability to think and perform properly.
- They must be able to quickly assess risk and spot potential hazards.

4. What would you expect from a pedestrian if you were another road user?

- Find a safe place to cross the road.
- Use a pavement if provided (if there is no pavement, keep to the right-hand side of the road so you can see oncoming traffic).
- Not to run across the road.
- Help other road users see you.
- Not to be distracted by friends.
- Not to be using a phone whilst crossing the road.
- Not to be listening to music whilst crossing the road.

5. How do you travel to school?

Pupils to discuss how they travel in the road environment eg. car, pedestrian, bus, cycle, taxi. What are the advantages or disadvantages to their mode of travel eg. independence, convenience, cost of purchase/fuel/maintenance, risk, effect on environment. How do they minimise risk when using different forms of transport?

6. Who is responsible for your safety when you're out and about?

Drivers are not psychic. They can't see round corners. They don't have special powers to make the big lump of metal they're driving into a soft squidgy goo that won't hurt if it hits something. If a car hits you, you could be seriously injured or killed. Drivers have a responsibility to drive safely and abide by the law but it's up to you to take responsibility for your own safety when out and about.

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Additional exercise:

Pick one of the scenarios below and discuss/write as many possible hazards they need to be aware of on their travels. If you need some ideas to get you started, have a look at the Hazard Test. Think about what environmental conditions might make them more at risk ie. poor light, rain/snow, wind. What might they do to reduce their risk eg. being aware of the road environment, hi-visibility clothing, using pedestrian crossings, clear visibility before crossing, avoid distractions, protective clothing ie. helmet.

- A parent walking to nursery with their young child and baby early in the morning.
- A business man late for work.
- A group of friends on their way to a concert by bus.
- Friends walking home after a night out.
- A cyclist travelling home from school in the rain.

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Additional exercise:

Role play. Split into groups of two. One person is a driver or a cyclist, the other is a pedestrian. Improvise on how each would react in their different role to a situation. Some examples:

- a) The pedestrian steps out onto the road without looking.
- b) The pedestrian crosses the road at a corner.
- c) The driver goes through a red light and nearly hits a pedestrian.
- d) A driver opens his car door without checking for oncoming traffic and the cyclist behind comes off his bike.

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Answer sheet



What's the risk?

Not checking for oncoming vehicles.

How to avoid this hazard?

Always check what's coming before crossing.



What's the risk?

Reading a newspaper while crossing.

How to avoid this hazard?

Put your reading materials away before you cross the road.



What's the risk?

Lost control of his dogs!

How to avoid this hazard?

Keep pets on a lead and control them near roads.



What's the risk?

This person is crossing between parked cars.

How to avoid this hazard?

Always cross where clear and stay visible to drivers.



What's the risk?

Pulling in behind a big vehicle.

How to avoid this hazard?

Give large vehicles plenty of road room and stay out of blind spots.



What's the risk?

Approaching reversing vehicle.

How to avoid this hazard?

Look for their wing mirrors - if you can't see them, they can't see you!

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Answer sheet



What's the risk?

Listening to music while crossing.

How to avoid this hazard?

Take your headphones off when you're crossing the road, so you're not caught out.



What's the risk?

Texting on the road.

How to avoid this hazard?

Driving and texting just don't mix. Wait until you're stopped.

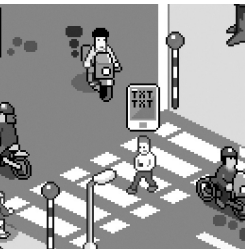


What's the risk?

Stepping back into the road to take a photo isn't safe.

How to avoid this hazard?

Stay aware of your surroundings and out of the road!



What's the risk?

Looking at the phone while crossing the road!

How to avoid this hazard?

Check it's safe to cross and keep your eyes off that phone.



What's the risk?

Pulling in front of a bus at a stop.

How to avoid this hazard?

Make sure you stay visible and don't chance it near large vehicles.