

INSIDE: Safety Tools . Buckle Up . Activities . Safety on Wheels . Safety Tips

YES *for* KIDS magazine



Paige Band, PS 175, Queens



City of New York
Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor



New York City
Department of Transportation

In This Issue . . .

Table of Contents

Page 3

Do You Use Your Tools?

Page 4

Is Your Family Safety Belt Smart?

Page 5

Safety Belts Protect You in a Crash

Page 6

Safety on Wheels

Page 8

Live From DOT

Page 10

Activity Page

Page 11

Dear Safety City

Page 12

What is Your Pedestrian Signal IQ?

Join the
Traffic
Safety
Club



You can join the Traffic Safety Club and be a Safety Deputy if you work to keep yourself and others safe. Draw a picture or write a poem or story about any traffic safety tips in this magazine and then send it to us. Be sure to include your name, address, school, grade and age. Many of the pictures and writings that you send us will be published in the next issue of this magazine so that other children in New York City can see them and learn about traffic safety.

Send your picture, story or poem to:

**NYC Department of Transportation
Safety Education
59 Maiden Lane 35th floor
New York, N.Y. 10038**

Youth Educating for Safety



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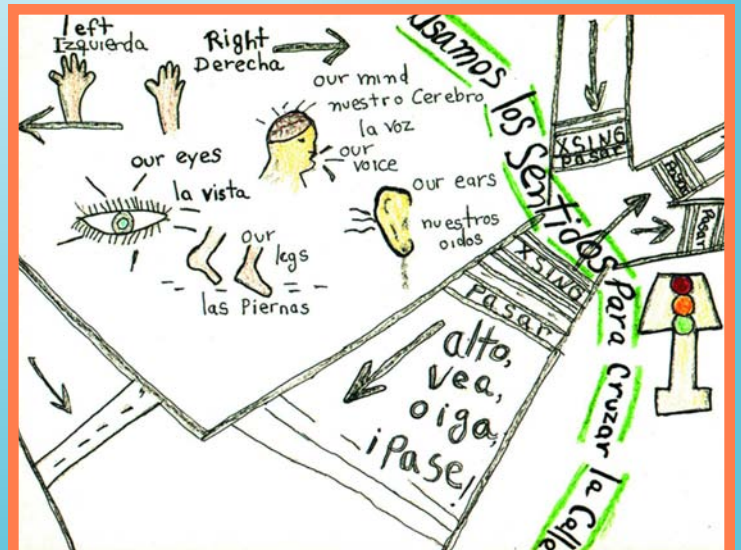
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Janet Gonzalez, Brooklyn

Do You Use Your Tools?

We all have safety tools that are with us all the time. Do you know what they are? How can we use them to stay safer on the city streets?

Match the tool with its use and be safer when you walk outside.



Think.
Is it safe
to cross?



Walk –
don't run –
across the street.



Hold it up high
to be more visible
to drivers.



Listen for
engine noises,
horns and sirens.



Look for moving
traffic and
turning cars.

There are also tools we find outside that help us stay safer. Have you seen these tools around your house or school?

Traffic signs and signals are tools that help everyone using the roadways stay safer. Is there a pedestrian signal on one of the corners near your house? What does the white figure mean? What does the red hand mean? If you see a flashing red hand, stay on the curb and wait until you see the walk figure again. Then look left, right and left again for oncoming traffic, and begin to cross only when you are sure it is safe. If the red hand starts to flash while you are crossing, keep going to a safe place – a traffic island or the other side of the street. Remember to keep looking for turning cars, trucks and buses as you cross!



Traffic Signal/Pedestrian Signal: The **red, yellow and green lights** on the traffic signal and the **white figure and red hand** on the pedestrian signal let people in vehicles and on foot know who has the right-of-way. Traffic signals help traffic flow more smoothly, and help pedestrians cross an intersection safely.



School crosswalks: Ladder-stripe school crosswalks are more visible to drivers. They help them to be alert for pedestrians near schools.



Advance warning signs are found around schools where children are walking and crossing streets. The bright yellow-green colored sign give drivers warning that a school is near-by.

IS YOUR FAMILY SAFETY BELT SMART?

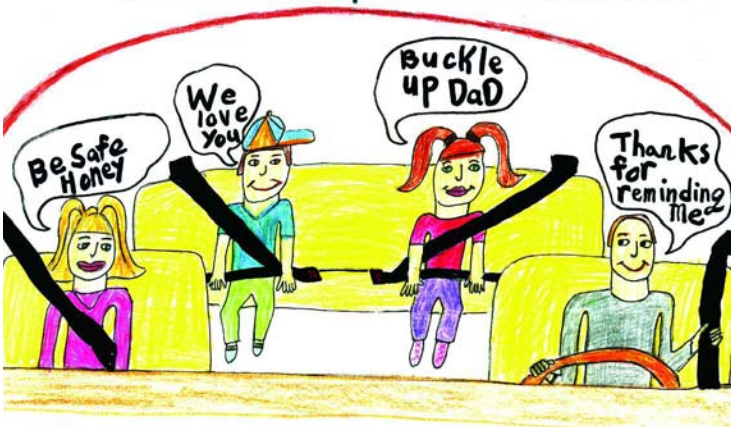
Take a survey of your parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins. Ask them, "Do you buckle up every time you are in a car?" Ask, "Do you put babies, toddlers, and young children in car safety seats or booster seats?"

If they say no, ask them, "Why not?" Do they give you any of these excuses for not buckling up? Let them know that the best protection against getting hurt in a car crash is a safety belt or car safety seat. Safety belts and safety seats really do save lives!

It's the Law in New York

- ◆ Children under age 7 must be buckled into a car seat or booster
- ◆ Children between age 7 and 16 must use a safety belt

Even Grown-Ups Need Reminders.



BUCKLE UP For SAFETY



Buckle your seatbelt over your chest, so you don't go flying north or west.

Here are some common excuses:

Excuse: We're not going far. We won't be going fast.

Fact: Most car crashes happen close to home and at speeds less than 35 miles per hour.

Excuse: It's not cool to wear safety belts.

Fact: It's not cool to get thrown from a car. Cool kids (and grown-ups) do buckle up, and so do astronauts, jet pilots and racecar drivers.

Excuse: Safety belts are too uncomfortable and too much trouble.

Fact: It only takes a few seconds to fasten a safety belt! In a car crash without your safety belt, you could slam into the dashboard, smash into another person, or crash through the windshield. That would be very uncomfortable.

Excuse: A baby is safest in a grown-up's arms.

Fact: If there is a crash, a grown up won't be able to hold on to a baby. The force of the crash will cause the baby to fly out of their arms and into something like the dashboard, windshield, another person or even the pavement outside the car.

Excuse: I'll be trapped if the car catches fire or sinks.

Fact: The odds of a car sinking or catching fire are very small – less than 1/2 of 1 percent. However, if this should happen, a safety belt will prevent you from hitting your head and losing consciousness, and you will be better able to escape from your car.

Excuse: I'd rather be thrown clear of the crash.

Fact: Your chances of being injured or killed are 25 times greater if you are thrown from a car in a crash than if you are held inside by a safety belt.

Never share a safety belt---even with someone you love!

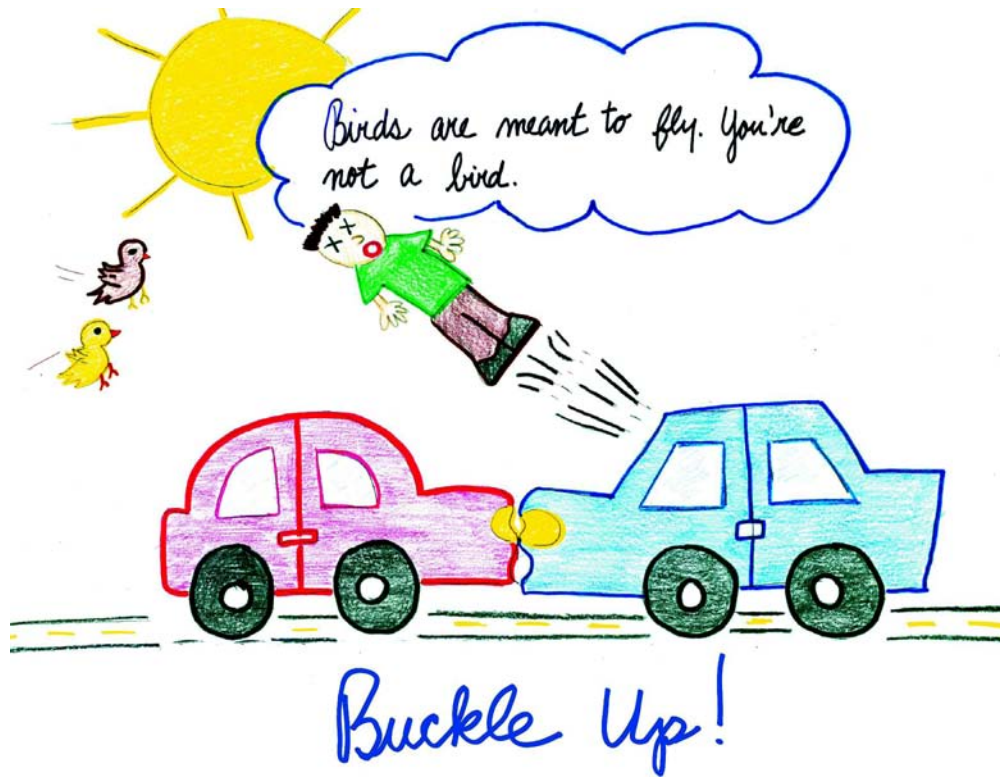
Make it “Click” for you!

Safety belts save thousands of lives each year.

When used properly, a safety belt can keep you from getting hurt. Wearing a safety belt doubles your chances of walking away from a crash! A safety belt protects you by:

- ◆ spreading the force of the crash over the strongest parts of your body-- your hips and shoulders.
- ◆ keeping you inside the car so you won't crash into telephone poles, guardrails, oncoming traffic or other people in the car.
- ◆ protecting your head and brain from getting hurt.
- ◆ keeping you awake so that you can get out of the car quickly.

Gina Marie Auricchio, age 12, Saint Athanasius School, Brooklyn



WHAT HAPPENS IN A CAR CRASH

When a car is moving everything inside the car travels at the same speed. If the car stops suddenly everyone inside the car keeps moving until something slows them down or stops them.

- ◆ During a crash people can be really hurt if they crash into doors, the windshield, the dashboard, seats or other people.
- ◆ Even good drivers are not safe from crashes. They can still be hit by bad drivers or drivers who have been drinking.

Sit in the back seat. It's the safest place for children!

Safety on



Photos taken at the Washington Heights Bike Rodeo Safety Day

Your Uniform

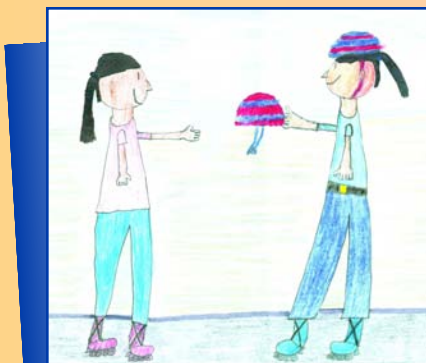
Professional sports players all wear uniforms – and you need one, too, when you drive your bicycle. Here are the essential pieces:

1. Helmet: Baseball, football, and hockey teams require their players to wear helmets as part of their uniform. In the same way, your bicycle helmet is part of your biking uniform. You need it to protect your head in case you fall or someone hits you while you are on your bike.

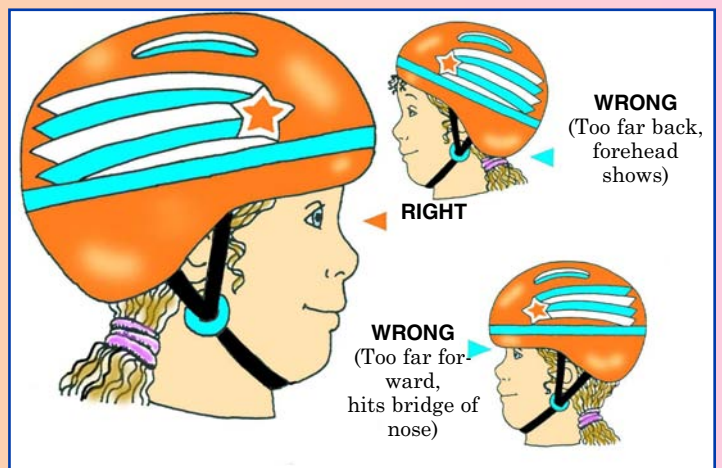
2. Reflectors: Stickers, clothes, blinking lights – the more the better! Reflectors help people on the street, on the sidewalk, and in cars see you better.

3. Sun Block: Even though sun block is invisible, it is an essential part of your uniform. The sun can do lots of damage to your skin, like a painful sunburn or even cancer. Use sun block to protect yourself from the sun's harmful rays.

4. Water Bottle: When your body works out – like when you are driving your bike – it uses water as fuel. You need to drink water to replace what your body uses up as you drive.



Brianna Rivera, Our Lady of the Snow School, Queens



Wheels



Tu Uniforme

Los jugadores de los equipos deportivos profesionales tienen sus uniformes – y tú también tienes uno cuando te montas en bicicleta. Éstas son las partes más importantes:

1. El Casco Protector: En los equipos profesionales de pelota, fútbol americano, y hockey, los jugadores tienen un casco como parte de su uniforme. Es igual para tí – el casco protector es parte de tu uniforme de ciclista. Lo necesitarás en caso de que te caigas de la bicicleta, o si otra persona se choca contigo.

2. Reflectores: Sean sellos, ropa, luces – más te sirve mejor! Material reflectivo en cualquier forma te hace más visible a las otras personas – a los peatones en la calle y en la acera, y lo más importante, a los conductores de carro.

3. Bloqueador de Sol: El bloqueador de soles invisible, pero es una parte esencial de tu uniforme. El sol puede dañar tu piel, dándote una quemadura dolorosa e incluso causa cáncer. Usa el bloqueador para protegerte de los rayos dañinos del sol.

4. Botella de Agua: Mientras tu cuerpo trabaja – como cuando te montas en bicicleta – usa el agua para energía. Necesitas tomar agua para reemplazar el agua que tu cuerpo ha usado mientras juegas en la bici.

Reprinted with permission from the Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Children's Hospital of New York-Presbyterian.

Your helmet should fit well and feel comfortable. It should sit snugly on the top of your head, about one inch above your eyebrows. If your helmet hits the bridge of your nose when you pull it forward from back to front, it's too loose. If your forehead shows when you push it from front to back, it's also too loose and the straps need to be tightened. The "V" of the straps that go around your ears should come just below the earlobes.

Live from DOT — New York City Traffic!

How do we keep all the cars, trucks, vans and buses on our city streets moving smoothly and safely? *YES for KIDS* recently visited DOT's Traffic Management Center (TMC), located in Long Island City, Queens, and spoke with Mohamad Talas, the manager of the TMC, to learn more.

YES for KIDS: What is the purpose of the Traffic Management Center?

Mr. Talas The Traffic Management Center works to make traffic move across the city safely and efficiently. We do this by checking traffic conditions, controlling the traffic signals, and getting information to the public.



Mohamad Talas, DOT TMC Manager, and Lt. Kerins, NYPD TMC Operations Coordinator, discuss Manhattan traffic hotspots.

Q That sounds pretty difficult. How do you control the signals?

A There are 11,600 traffic signals in New York City — more than in any other city in America! About 6,000 signals are computerized, and we can control them all from this center. More than one million vehicles travel in our city everyday. We look at how many vehicles are on the road at different times of day. In the morning, for example, when more drivers are heading to work in Manhattan, we give more "green time" to the vehicles going in that direction. We also have the signals change from red to green in a progressive pattern — one after another, block after block. We reverse the patterns in the evening, when people are leaving Manhattan.

Q Do you change the patterns at other times during the day?

A Yes, we have a mid-day pattern, which gives equal time to the vehicles going in each direction. We also adjust the signal times on weekends and holidays. When there are special events like parades, street fairs or sports events, we make adjustments on nearby streets that will be busier. If lanes get closed down because of a crash or something else like a water main break or fire, we adjust the traffic signals on other streets that people may take to get around the problem area. This helps relieve congestion (when too many vehicles clog up the roadways) and decreases the time it takes to get from one place to another.

Q Besides computerized signals, what kinds of technology do you have?

A We also have video cameras — 85 in Manhattan and 170 in the other boroughs — which send us pictures of bridges, roadways and intersections with heavy traffic so we can monitor them 24 hours a day, 365 days a year (366 in leap years). If we see any problems or a particularly heavy traffic flow, we can take action.

Q What can you do to get traffic moving again?

A Aside from adjusting signal timings, we provide information to the Police Department, and they can send traffic agents or police officers to the scene to help solve the problem. We also contact other City and State agencies if there are situations that they can control.

Q Can you let drivers know what's happening?

A That is one of our main goals! We want to provide as much information as possible to help drivers make better, safer decisions. We do this in several ways. First, we have Variable Message Boards (VMS) alongside many roadways in the city to immediately let drivers know about detours, street closings, and delays. There are now 40 VMS around the city, and we want to install more in the near future. We also share information with traffic reporters on the radio and TV. Images from our live traffic cameras are broadcast on NYC Channel 74 and on traffic reports on news shows. And you can go to our website, www.nyctmc.org, to check the Web Cams that show photos and live video

from key intersections in the City and on the highways.

Q What are your plans for the future?

A We are working with our partners, the New York State Department of Transportation and NYPD, to build a bigger, more enhanced center. We want to install more cameras to let us keep better watch on traffic flow in many more areas. We are also working on a flow map for the internet, where people can check traffic speeds and movement on many highways in the city.



Traffic Management Center TMC staff monitors showing traffic around the city.

Q What's the benefit to New Yorkers from all this?

A By reducing congestion and helping traffic move smoothly, we can make traveling in New York City easier and safer for drivers, passengers, pedestrians - everyone using the roadways! Drivers can plan ahead to take the best route by checking traffic conditions online or on TV before they begin their trip. By keeping them informed of changing conditions, they can avoid unpleasant or dangerous surprises. This can make their travel time shorter and that means less carbon monoxide pollution in the air from vehicles. Less pollution means we breathe cleaner air. Less congestion, shorter trips, cleaner air - these are great benefits for all of us!

Q How often should I use a safety belt?

A Every time you ride in a car!

Move More. Sit Less.

Have fun and be active throughout the week by trying some of the following...

Everyday (as much as possible)

- ◆ Drive your bike or walk. Encourage grown-ups to walk places instead of taking the car.
- ◆ Take your dog or little brother or sister for a walk.
- ◆ Take the stairs instead of the elevator.
- ◆ Pick up your toys.

Exercise 3 - 5 times a week

- ◆ Spend at least 20 minutes biking, skating, skateboarding. Don't forget your helmet and other safety gear!
- ◆ Play sports like basketball, soccer, volleyball, kickball.

Get in shape 2 - 3 times a week

- ◆ Play miniature golf, go to the playground and swing, do gymnastics.
- ◆ Do karate, take a dance class, do push-ups or pull-ups.

Spend less time

- ◆ watching television
 - ◆ playing video and computer games
 - ◆ sitting around for more than 30 minutes at a time
- It's even more fun to think up your own activities. Get your family and friends involved and try new things by yourself! Remember to use your safety tools to stay healthy and safe.

Do you have other ideas? Send them to YES for Kids at NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane 35th floor
New York, N.Y. 10038
Att: Safety Education

WHAT NOT TO WEAR WHILE YOU'RE BIKING, SKATING OR SKATEBOARDING

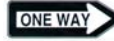
- ◆ headphones!
You won't be able to hear what's going on around you.
- ◆ clothing that's too loose
- ◆ inappropriate shoes - baseball cleats, bowling shoes, high heels, flip-flops
- ◆ dark clothes

CRISS-CROSS SAFELY

ON FOOT, ON BIKES, IN A CAR!



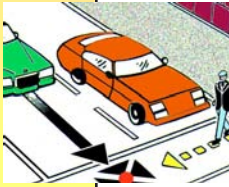
T R A F F I C



6 Letters
HELMET
SIGNAL

7 Letters
BICYCLE
TRAFFIC

8 Letters
BUCKLEUP
SUNBLOCK



9 Letters
CROSSWALK

10 Letters
PEDESTRIAN
REFLECTORS
SAFETYBELT

11 Letters
WATERBOTTLE



Road Hazards

C	P	M	T	U	R	B	H	B	A	N
K	U	E	J	N	A	F	S	L	W	R
N	D	C	D	U	B	X	J	V	Z	D
S	D	Q	E	E	M	U	F	C	H	O
S	L	O	T	F	S	Z	Y	W	Q	O
A	E	R	G	I	A	T	R	J	K	R
L	N	B	Z	L	C	A	R	O	S	I
G	F	W	Y	C	K	D	Q	I	R	F
I	Y	B	M	N	P	I	L	C	A	R
C	L	B	Q	E	K	C	O	R	O	N

When you are driving your bicycle, you need to pay attention and look out for many things that could be **road hazards**. A road hazard is something that could make you fall or get hurt if you drive into it. **Find the road hazards from the list below and circle them in the puzzle.**

DOG
PUDDLE
CAR
OPEN CAR DOOR

ROCK
BROKEN GLASS
PEDESTRIAN

Obstáculos en el Camino

Cuando manejas la bicliceta, hay que velar por muchas cosas que pueden ser **obstáculos**. Un obstáculo es algo que te pudiera hacer caer o hacerte daño si chocas con él. **Busca las palabras de la lista en el cuadro - todos son obstáculos y debes velar por ellos.**

PERRO
CHARCO DE AGUA
CARRO
PUERTA ABIERTA DE
SUN CARRO

PIEDRA
PEATON
VIDRIO ROTO

O	D	S	A	P	E	R	R	O	D	C
P	U	Y	A	I	D	H	W	I	S	D
E	R	G	T	R	V	L	N	R	H	M
A	U	C	E	P	D	B	K	D	L	O
T	C	B	H	R	M	E	O	I	K	R
O	F	N	S	A	L	B	I	V	N	R
N	L	M	A	T	R	E	U	P	D	A
L	D	V	A	F	M	C	X	Q	F	C
J	U	B	N	O	N	S	O	W	G	L
C	D	M	R	R	O	D	S	A	L	D

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Answers on back cover

Thank you for teaching me everything I need to know about safety. When I got home, I kept on talking about safety. My sister said, "Be quiet already!" I wish I could come back soon.

Love,
Oby Okpalanma
CES 53, Bronx



We learned many important tips today, like to raise our hand when we cross the street. I am happy that you taught us how to wear a safety belt. We will always buckle right, low and tight.

We are really happy for everything.

Your friends,
Ashley Joy and John
PS 29, Staten Island

Dear Safety City

You taught me so much. My favorite part was when you taught me how to cross the street. I never knew how to cross the street. The new words I learned are pedestrian, crosswalk, traffic signal, pedestrian signal. I promise I will do the things you taught me correctly.

Ashley V. Joseph
Holy Cross School, Brooklyn



Elizabeth Richard, PS 5, Staten Island

Thank you for allowing us to visit Safety City. Now I know that the people in the street are pedestrians.

I hope to visit again. Until next time, be safe!

Your friend,
Johnny
PS 53, Bronx

Thank you for everything you taught us about safety. Now when I ride my bike, I wear my helmet because I want to be safe.

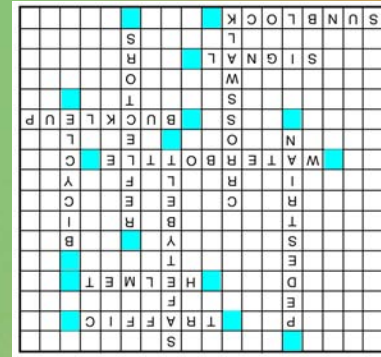
Danielle
Our Lady Help of
Christians, Brooklyn



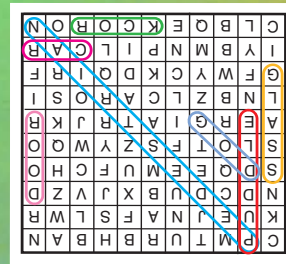
I had a great time. I've been on a lot of trips and this was the best. I learned a lot of great tips. I learned to stop, look and listen whenever I get to a driveway, and to wait on the corner if the HAND is flashing.

From,
Nicholas Scarangelo
PS 29, Staten Island

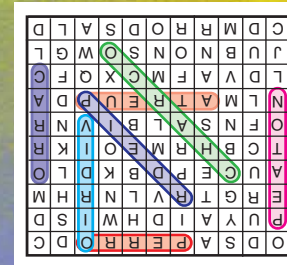
Matthew Lim, PS 130, Queens



Answers to Criss-Cross Safely







Answers to Road Hazards



Answers to Obstáculos en el Camino

What is your pedestrian signal IQ?

Take this quiz and find out.

1. What does this signal mean? 
2. Before you step off the curb to cross the street, what do you always do?
3. What do you do if you are in the middle of the street, and the  signal begins to flash?
4. If the  signal is flashing when you get to the curb, what do you do?
5. If the steady  signal is lit when you get to the curb, what do you do?

Check your answers on the bottom of the page.

Answers to the Pedestrian Signal IQ Quiz

1. A fresh WALK signal means you cross the street using your safety tools.
2. Look to the left, then to the right, then left again for oncoming traffic. Begin to cross only when the "coast is clear". If a car is approaching, make sure that you can see the driver and that he/she has seen you before you step off the curb.
3. Continue to walk to the closest safe place – a traffic island or the other side. Do not run.
4. STOP! Wait for the next new WALK signal.
5. STOP! Wait for the next new WALK signal.

How Did You Score?

- 5 correct - You're a pedestrian signal genius! Take a bow!
 - 4 correct - Good job, but take a moment to go over the safety tips on page 3.
 - 3 or less correct - You need to improve your safety IQ.
- Review the safety tips on page 3, and take the quiz again.
You'll answer all the questions correctly next time.



Britni Mignon, PS 41, Queens

DIAL 311 Government Services & Information for NYC

Visit our Web Site: www.nyc.gov/dot