



Motorists, do you respect pedestrians?

*Société de l'assurance
automobile*

Québec 

At the wheel, are you the type of person who accelerates to avoid waiting at a traffic light? Do you drive faster than the authorized speed limit when you are late? Do you cut off pedestrians or, worse, not let them cross?

Last year in Québec, motor vehicles struck ten pedestrians on average each day, mainly in urban settings. Take a few minutes to review your obligations with regard to pedestrian safety. Be careful, because pedestrians never measure up to motor vehicles in an accident.

Observe the speed limit



Respect the speed limit and take weather conditions into account: driving 10 km/h over the speed limit can make the difference between life and death for the pedestrian who crosses your path. In school zones, exercise particular caution because the speed limit is often 30 km/h.



Fine and demerit points in proportion to one's speed at the moment of interception.

Watch out for our children



Be careful: children get on and off school buses in the area. Stop 5 metres from a bus whose lights are flashing. (The stop is non-compulsory if a median or raised surface separates your lane from that of the bus.)

Fine: from \$200 to \$300 plus demerit points: 9.*

Compulsory stop



At a stop sign, it is forbidden to move a vehicle forward or turn as long as pedestrians are crossing, because they have priority. One must always heed the stop sign of a school crossing guard.

Fine: from \$100 to \$200 plus demerit points: 3.*

Pedestrian priority



Pedestrians have priority on a pedestrian crossing light (white silhouette or flashing signal) or on a green light. Allow them to cross before moving forward.

Fine: from \$100 to \$200 plus demerit points: 2.*

Be ready to stop!



Motorists must stop at pedestrian crosswalks when people step onto the crosswalk, because pedestrians have priority.

Fine: from \$100 to \$200.*

Obey the stop line



For pedestrian safety, don't block the intersection and pay attention to the stop line.

Fine: from \$100 to \$200 plus demerit points: 3.*

Be careful when turning right on a red light!



You may turn right on a red light except on the island of Montréal and at intersections where a sign prohibits it. Yield the right of way to pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicles who are already crossing at an intersection. Double your precautions with respect to children, the elderly, people with impaired sight and anyone else who crosses slowly.

Fine: from \$100 to \$200 plus demerit points: 3.*

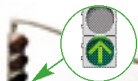
*Not including court fees

Drivers often adopt the following behaviours on roadways.
In your opinion, are they right to do so?

SITUATION 1

On a green arrow, a driver may move forward in any direction.

True or false



False. On a green arrow, a driver may only move forward in the direction shown by the arrow, after yielding the right of way to motor vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians already crossing at the intersection. In the situation illustrated, the driver must wait until a green light replaces the green arrow or until another arrow pointing right appears. He may then turn right if the coast is clear.

SITUATION 2

In the absence of pedestrians, a driver may turn right on a red light at an intersection, even when the white silhouette of the pedestrian crossing light appears.

True or false



True. Off the island of Montréal, where there are no signs prohibiting it, a driver may turn right on a red light after yielding the right of way to motor vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists who are already crossing, or are about to cross, at an intersection. In the situation illustrated, the driver may turn right on the red light, because there is no pedestrian, cyclist or vehicle already in the intersection.

SITUATION 3

When a pedestrian is crossing at a crosswalk, the driver has the right of way, because there is no stop sign forcing him to stop his vehicle.

True or false



False. The white sign with a silhouette and a black arrow indicates the presence of a pedestrian crosswalk. It obliges the driver to stop his vehicle when a pedestrian is crossing. Furthermore, lines on the road create a corridor reserved for pedestrians and invite drivers to be careful and alert.

SITUATION 4

A driver may stop his vehicle anywhere as long as she heeds the red light forcing him to stop.

True or false



False. On a red light, a driver must stop his vehicle before the stop line or the pedestrian crosswalk so that pedestrians may cross safely.

SITUATION 5

In a school zone, a driver may continue driving at 50 km/h, regardless of the road signs or traffic signals.

True or false



False. A driver must respect the speed limit shown on road signs. Some signs also indicate the hours during which the speed limit applies. In the situation illustrated, the driver must slow down to 30 km/h between 7 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday from September to June. When driving in the city, the driver must always be particularly careful and obey road signs and traffic signals, especially near schools.

As a motorist, respect pedestrians!

For further information, telephone: (514) 873-7620 in Montréal (local call); (418) 643-7620 in Québec (city and vicinity); or 1-800-361-7620, toll free, from elsewhere in the province.

Internet: www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca