



Pedestrians, do you meet your obligations?

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Québec 

Pedestrians are the most vulnerable of road users. They have little protection in the event of being struck by a motor vehicle.

Motorists hit ten pedestrians on average each day on Québec roads.

During the last five years, road accidents have killed more pedestrians than bicycle and motorcycle riders combined.

The Highway Safety Code sets forth obligations that pedestrians must meet to ensure safe travel. Failure to comply is punishable by a fine of \$15 to \$30 (not including court fees). Do you heed your obligations as a pedestrian?

Travel on foot

Use the sidewalk or where there is none, walk on the edge of the roadway, facing oncoming traffic.

Remember, walking or hitchhiking on an expressway (autoroute), including exit and entrance ramps, is forbidden as it is on the roadway and areas where no passing is allowed.

Before crossing



For your own safety, go to the nearest intersection or pedestrian crosswalk:

- look left, right, then left again and estimate the time needed to cross free of danger;
- at intersections, also look over your left shoulder to check that no vehicle is about to turn right.



Traffic lights: they must be obeyed!



Cross, because you have priority.



Avoid crossing if the light is flashing, but quicken your pace if you have already begun to cross.



Do not cross.

There is no pedestrian crossing light?

You have priority on the green light, but exercise caution! Be doubly attentive when crossing, because some motorists drive too quickly to stop on time or do not take into account your priority on a pedestrian crossing light or green light.

If there is no intersection nearby

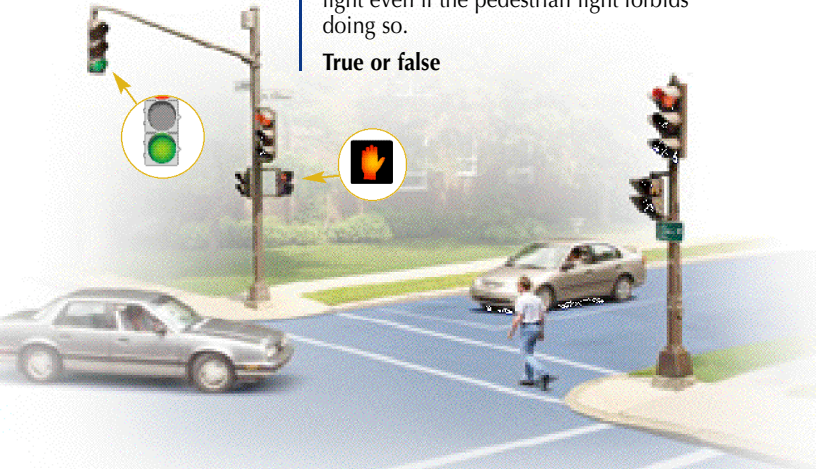
Yield the right of way to automobiles and bicycles before starting across and make sure you can cross without risk of accident. Avoid coming out onto a street from between parked vehicles; motorists are unlikely to notice you until it is too late.

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

SITUATION 1

As a pedestrian, you may cross on a green light even if the pedestrian light forbids doing so.

True or false



False. If there is a pedestrian crossing light, you have priority only when the stationary silhouette appears. If there is no pedestrian crossing light, you have priority on the green light. In the situation illustrated, the pedestrian is liable to a fine because he is not heeding the pedestrian light. By so doing, he is placing himself in danger, because the risk of accident is very high.

SITUATION 2

A pedestrian may cross a public road anywhere as long as he or she is sure to look left, right, and then left again before crossing.

True or false

False. To cross a public road, it is mandatory for pedestrians to go to an intersection or a pedestrian crosswalk if there is one close by. In the situation illustrated, the pedestrian is liable to a fine, because she is crossing somewhere other than at the closest intersection. Also, to be clearly seen by motorists and ensure one's safety, a pedestrian must never cross from between two parked vehicles.



SITUATION 3

At an intersection, a pedestrian may wait on the road before crossing.

True or false



False. If a sidewalk borders the road, the pedestrian must use it and wait for authorization to cross. In the situation illustrated, the pedestrian is liable to a fine, because she is not using the sidewalk that borders the road. By waiting on the road, the pedestrian strongly risks being hit by a motor vehicle.

SITUATION 4

At an intersection, a pedestrian may cross diagonally as long as he or she hurries.

True or false



False. At an intersection, a pedestrian may cross diagonally only when authorized by a law enforcement officer, a school crossing guard or a traffic signal. In the situation illustrated, the pedestrian is liable to a fine, because he is crossing diagonally without authorization. Also, the risk of accident is very high when crossing diagonally, because the pedestrian must keep an eye on vehicles and bicycles located at each branch of the intersection.

SITUATION 5

If no sidewalk borders the road, the pedestrian must walk on the side of the road, facing oncoming traffic.

True or false

True. By facing oncoming vehicles, the pedestrian can see them and react if there is danger. Also, when the sky is dark or overcast, pedestrians should wear clothing or accessories that are light-coloured or that incorporate reflector tape.

For your safety

As a pedestrian, you are the first person responsible for your own safety.

- * Check for traffic, even at traffic lights, to make sure that motorists stop on time and that they respect your right of way.
- * Make eye contact with drivers before crossing.