



This is not a word for word transcript.

- Neil:** Hello and welcome to 6 minute English. My name is Neil and with me today is Rosie.
- Rosie:** Hi there.
- Neil:** Now Rosie, are you one of those people who walks down the road while trying to send a text message?
- Rosie:** Of course! I do it all the time.
- Neil:** And have you ever had an accident because you haven't been looking where you are going?
- Rosie:** Funnily enough, yes! This happened to me only the other day.
- Neil:** Well the reason I was asking is that one town in America thinks that walking and texting has become such a problem that they have made it illegal!
- Rosie:** No way!
- Neil:** But before we get onto that, I have a quiz question about strange but true laws which exist in the UK. Which one of these three is NOT a real law?
- a) It's illegal to enter the Houses of Parliament wearing a suit of armour.
 - b) A pregnant woman can go to the toilet anywhere she wants.
 - c) It's illegal to speak French in front of a dog.
- Rosie:** Well they all sound completely ridiculous, but I am going to go for c).
- Neil:** We'll hear the answer at the end of the programme. Now, back to our story about texting and walking. It's illegal to text and drive at the same time in some countries, such as the UK and the USA, but this town in New Jersey is the first to ban texting while walking.
- Rosie:** But it doesn't apply to people who are walking down a pavement, or sidewalk as they say in America. It only applies to people who are walking down a road. This is known as **jaywalking**.
- Neil:** So how much is the fine? Let's listen to the first part of the report by the BBC's Leana Hosea.

BBC correspondent Leana Hosea:

A town in New Jersey in the United States has started issuing eighty-five dollar fines to people they see texting whilst crossing the road. Thomas Ripoli is chief of the Fort Lee Police Department and he says he hopes the new law will reduce the number of accidents.

Neil: So Rosie, how much is the fine for jaywalking and texting?

Rosie: It's 85 dollars, which is a really expensive text message! But the chief of police is hopeful that the new law will reduce the number of accidents.

Neil: Well, let's face it, it is pretty dangerous to cross a road while texting as you're not always looking at what's coming – it's easy to miss a car.

Rosie: Yes, and there are other dangerous things which can happen whilst texting.

Neil: For example you could trip over... or bump into someone... Listen to our next clip to hear about a danger that is not quite so obvious. It involves an animal. Can you hear which one it is? Here's the BBC's Leana Hosea.

BBC correspondent Leana Hosea:

There have been some eye-catching videos which have gone viral showing people distracted while on a mobile phone. Recently in Los Angeles an 180-kilo black bear had wandered down into a residential area from the nearby forest. Aerial footage shows a man, who was apparently texting his boss to tell him he was running late for work and didn't notice the bear lumbering down the street towards him until he was just a couple of metres away. He looked up from his phone and immediately turned and ran away as fast as he could.

Rosie: Oh my word! So a man was texting and walking down the street. He was texting his boss to tell him he was late for work...

Neil: But he didn't see a bear **lumbering** down the street towards him. Lumbering means the bear was walking in a slow, heavy way.

Rosie: He finally saw the bear when it was just a few metres away and then he immediately ran away as fast as he could! The bear had wandered into a residential area - an area where people live.

Neil: He's not the only one to have suffered due to texting and walking. In this final clip, we can hear about two other women who literally fell into something because they weren't watching where they were going while texting. Can you hear what? Here's Leana Hosea:

BBC correspondent Leana Hosea:

In China a teenage girl who was walking and talking on her mobile phone plunged six metres down a sinkhole in the street, after failing to notice caution signs. Another video shows a woman in a shopping mall who fell into a water fountain because she was distracted from texting.

Neil: So, Rosie, where did they fall?

- Rosie:** A teenage girl in China **plunged** – or fell - six metres down a **sinkhole**. A sinkhole is a large hole in the ground which a river flows into.
- Neil:** And the other one fell into a **water fountain** in a shopping mall! Well, the more I hear about these accidents the less strange this new law in America sounds. And talking about strange laws reminds me that it's time to answer our quiz question. I asked which one of these three is **NOT** a real law?
- a) It's illegal to enter the Houses of Parliament wearing a suit of armour.
 - b) A pregnant woman can go to the toilet anywhere she wants.
 - c) It's illegal to speak French in front of a dog.
- Rosie:** I said it was c).
- Neil:** And you were right. Time now for a quick recap of some of the words we've heard today.
- Rosie:** sidewalk
jaywalking
lumbering
residential area
plunged
sinkhole
water fountain
- Neil:** Join us again for more 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English!
- Rosie:** Goodbye!

Vocabulary and definitions

sidewalk	American word for pavement
jaywalking	American word for walking along a road
lumbering	walking in a slow and heavy way
residential area	a part of a town or city where people live
plunged	fell
sinkhole	a large hole in the ground which a river flows into
water fountain	a monument in which water is squirted into the air for decoration

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