

Recently some cities considered a law which would make “distracted walking” illegal. The law was prompted by a rapid increase in pedestrian deaths caused by people walking while texting. Apparently, these distracted walkers walked out in front of cars and were injured or killed.

But there was great opposition to such a law. Many people felt they had a right to text and walk. They didn’t want the government to tell them they couldn’t do it.

**Which statement do you agree more with?**

The government has a duty to protect distracted walkers from killing themselves by walking in front of cars.

People have the right to text and walk even if it kills them.

Recently I had lunch in a restaurant. At a nearby table a mother sat with her two young kids. During the thirty minutes I sat there, the mother talked on the cell phone the entire time. She did not ever say a word to either kid, who sat there bored nibbling their food and looking off into space. For some reason, this really angered me. I felt the mother was totally ignoring her children. I remember all the great conversations I had with my children as we ate our meals. Sometimes I learned very important things about them in these conversations. Sometimes I used these conversations to impart our family values to them. I thought the woman on the cellphone was wasting this opportunity to interact with her kids. I felt sorry for the kids because the woman was demonstrating that she cared less for them than the person on the phone with her.

Then I thought, “I guess I’m becoming an old lady, criticizing young parents because they weren’t raising children the way I thought they should.”

**What do you think? Was I overreacting?**

**When is it OK to talk on a cell phone at a restaurant? is it OK to text during a movie, while conversing with someone, while exercising at the gym?**

**Do you think we are too connected? Do you feel like you just want to get away from all the connections sometimes?**

**What bugs you most about cell phones? What bugs you most about cell phone users?**

**Put the past participle form of the verb into these sentences.**

- 1.(fly) Jim has \_\_\_\_\_ to New York.
- 2.(know) Have you \_\_\_\_\_ Lisa for very long?
- 3.(choose) The candidate has \_\_\_\_\_ his running mate.
- 4.(see) We have \_\_\_\_\_ so many wonderful things since moving here.
- 5.(learn) Everyone has \_\_\_\_\_ to speak English well.
- 6.(go) The students have \_\_\_\_\_ to the restaurant.
- 7.(come) Andy has \_\_\_\_\_ to this university to study engineering.
- 8.(take) The kids have \_\_\_\_\_ all the toys.
- 9.(eat) We have never \_\_\_\_\_ at this place.

10. (give) Everyone has \_\_\_\_\_ money to the charity.

**More confusing words:**

1. The (descent/ decent) from the mountaintop took three days.
2. His mother gave him a (doze/dose) of medicine.
3. His secretary left a (message/massage) for the boss on the desk.
4. The team's (moral/morale) was low after losing all of their games.
5. Could you (overlook/look over) my notes to make sure they are correct?
6. The program will (reply/replay) later this month.
7. The boy (wondered/wandered) through the mall looking for something to eat.
8. My family went on a long (trip/travel) last summer.
9. Ben really enjoys living (lonely/alone).
10. I asked the waiter to bring me (some/any) water.