

Pedestrian Safer Journey Ages 10-14 Video Script

This should be done in some kind of simple but graphically interesting 2D animation.

Main Characters:

NARRATOR – a friendly young woman; we only hear her voice

RACHEL – 14 year-old Caucasian (bossy, sure she's always right)

LISA – 13 year-old African American

TOMAS – 13 year-old Latino

MUSIC BEGINS.

*WE SEE THE TITLE: **Pedestrian Safer Journey***

RACHEL and LISA stand up in front of the title, causing it to stop moving and the music to stop playing. They look out at us viewers.

RACHEL: Wait, excuse me. We do *not* need to watch this.

NARRATOR: Why not?

LISA: We already know this stuff.

NARRATOR: You do?

RACHEL: (*sarcastically*) Yea-ah.

TOMAS enters from the left side of the frame, demonstrating his walking ability as he speaks.

TOMAS: We're not stupid. I think we know how to walk. See?

NARRATOR: All right. Dazzle me with what you already know.

Throughout this next portion all three kids – Rachel especially – speak in a 'everybody knows this already' tone of voice. As they describe what to do we'll see one or all of them doing the things they're talking about.

RACHEL: (*with an eyeroll*) Walk on the sidewalk, not the street.

NARRATOR: Unless...

LISA: There's not a sidewalk, then walk on the side of the street.

TOMAS: And walk facing traffic so the cars can see you better and you can see them.

NARRATOR: Because...

TOMAS: It's safer if you can see them – you can get out of their way if you have to.

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NARRATOR: What else?

RACHEL: Don't push and shove when you're walking in a group.

NARRATOR: Because...

TOMAS: You might accidentally shove somebody into the street.

RACHEL: Or they might shove you.

LISA: And you might get hit by a car.

And now they're back where they started.

NARRATOR: Okay, that's pretty good.

RACHEL: Told you.

NARRATOR: So you three could walk safely anywhere?

ALL THREE: *(unison)* Yea-ah.

Sudden scene change: the three of them are now at a major intersection; each street has two lanes of traffic per side plus a center turn lane. There is a stoplight across the street from them. The light is green, but the traffic signal flashes an orange hand palm out with the fingers pointing up. A digital readout is counting down to 0.

NARRATOR: What about here?

RACHEL: Sure. What's so hard about this? Come on.

TOMAS: *(indicating signal)* We can't go now.

RACHEL: Yes we can, it's a green light. Come on.

We see that the digital readout is getting closer to 0.

LISA: We don't have time before it changes.

RACHEL: Yes we *do*. Come on.

They start across, but have to stop and wait on the median when the light changes.

TOMAS: *(mimicking Rachel)* Told you.

RACHEL: It's not my fault. I can't help it if the light changed.

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NARRATOR: Actually, you can. But you have to pay attention to the walk signal and make the right decision. Let's try it again.

POP, POP, POP! They magically disappear from the median and reappear back on the sidewalk waiting for the light to change.

NARRATOR: *(continues)* You have a major intersection here and a lot of lanes to cross to get over there. And that flashing hand is not an Applause sign. It means 'stay where you are, don't start now.' So what do you do?

LISA: Wait.

NARRATOR: Until?

RACHEL: It says you can go. Duh.

We see the signal change from the orange palm to the green walking man.

NARRATOR: And when it looks like this, you go?

RACHEL: Yes.

TOMAS: No. Look both ways and make sure nobody's trying to make a last minute turn or something.

NARRATOR: Right. Even when you see the Walking Guy, make sure no cars are coming before you start across. Look left, then right, then left again, just to make sure. Look in front of you and behind you because cars could be coming that way, too. When you're sure no one's coming, *then* you start across.

LISA: And you run across as fast as you can before it changes.

NARRATOR: Nnnno. You don't run across, you walk.

LISA: Running's faster.

NARRATOR: But when you run you're not as careful, you're not paying attention. So don't do that. Just walk straight across at a nice steady pace.

As she's been saying this, the light has changed and the three of them have walked across the street, continuing to look left and right as they walk.

RACHEL: Okay, fine. We made it across and we didn't die. Are we done now?

NARRATOR: Nope, not yet. That was a pretty easy one. You had a signal to tell you when to cross. Let's see how you do without one.

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Sudden change: they're on one side of a busy street, lots of traffic both ways. Bushes are also growing near the street, obstructing some of the view.

NARRATOR: *(continues)* Can you cross here?

TOMAS: No, it's too busy.

NARRATOR: Right. There's a lot of traffic both ways and it doesn't look like it'll ease up enough for you to cross.

LISA: And it's hard to see with all the bushes in the way.

NARRATOR: So what do you do?

RACHEL: Keep walking 'til we find a better spot.

Another sudden change and they're now at a less busy spot with no obstructions.

NARRATOR: How about here?

RACHEL: Yeah, this looks okay.

NARRATOR: You can see cars, and they can see you – that's important. So show me what you do.

As Rachel replies she looks left, right and left again, then crosses the street by herself. Tomas and Lisa stay put.

RACHEL: Left right left. Nobody's coming. Walk across. There's nothing hard about this.

NARRATOR: Then let's make it a little bit harder.

POP! POP! Suddenly Lisa and Tomas are wearing earbuds. Cars pop up parked at the curb.

NARRATOR: *(continues)* Now try it.

TOMAS: Is it clear down there?

LISA: What?

TOMAS: Is a car coming?

LISA: *(taking out her earbuds)* What?

As the Narrator speaks we see Lisa doing the things she's describing.

NARRATOR: Earbuds are great when you want to listen to music, but not on a walk. When you're on a walk you need to hear what's happening around you. So take the

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earbuds out. *(POP! Their earbuds disappear.)* Now, what do you do about the cars parked in the street?

Tomas steps out between the parked cars to the edge of the street where he can see the traffic better.

TOMAS: Step out to here and then look for traffic.

NARRATOR: Yes. You have to get far enough out so you can see cars and the drivers can see you. And then...

Now Lisa and Tomas cross. Lisa emphasizes the word 'walk' because she was the one who wanted to run last time.

LISA: When it's clear, *walk* across –

NARRATOR: Thank you.

LISA: -- and keep looking for cars while we cross.

NARRATOR: Excellent! You guys *do* know what you're doing.

They're all together on the other side now. Lisa's cell phone makes a 'text message' sound; she takes it out and begins answering the text.

RACHEL: So we're done, right?

NARRATOR: Not yet. Let's go back to those earbuds. Music, cell phones, *(noticing Lisa) texting* –

LISA: *(embarrassed, putting phone away)* Sorry.

NARRATOR: -- even just talking a lot in a group – these are all distractions. They're *fun*, but they also take your attention away from what you're doing. And when you're near traffic, you have to *pay* attention. Otherwise you could walk in front of a car by mistake and maybe get seriously hurt.

LISA: So no texting while we're walking?

NARRATOR: Right. Get rid of distractions. That's really important.

RACHEL: Okay, what else?

NARRATOR: Wear bright colors.

RACHEL: Oh, right, because otherwise we're invisible.

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NARRATOR: No, but you're harder to see. Drivers have a lot to focus on, so make it easier for them by wearing bright, reflective clothing.

Rachel's outfit suddenly changes to something bright and reflective. Then, instantly, the sun goes down and we see how it reflects in the dark.

NARRATOR: *(continues)* Especially when it gets dark.

Lisa and Tomas are impressed.

LISA: That was cool.

NARRATOR: Thank you.

Everything magically returns to normal.

NARRATOR: *(continues)* Now one last thing.

TOMAS: What?

NARRATOR: Remember when you were younger, you always had to walk with someone older? *(they nod)* Well, now *you're* the one who's older. And if you have a little brother or sister, you could walk with *them*. Help them cross the street. Show them some of the things you know.

TOMAS: *(shrugs)* Yeah, I could do that. I have a little sister.

LISA: Me, too.

RACHEL: Fine. I'll take my brother for a walk. But he better do what I say.

NARRATOR: Good. So guess what.

TOMAS: What?

NARRATOR: We're all done. Walk safely!

*The three of them walk out of the frame and **The End** follows them in.*

MUSIC UP.