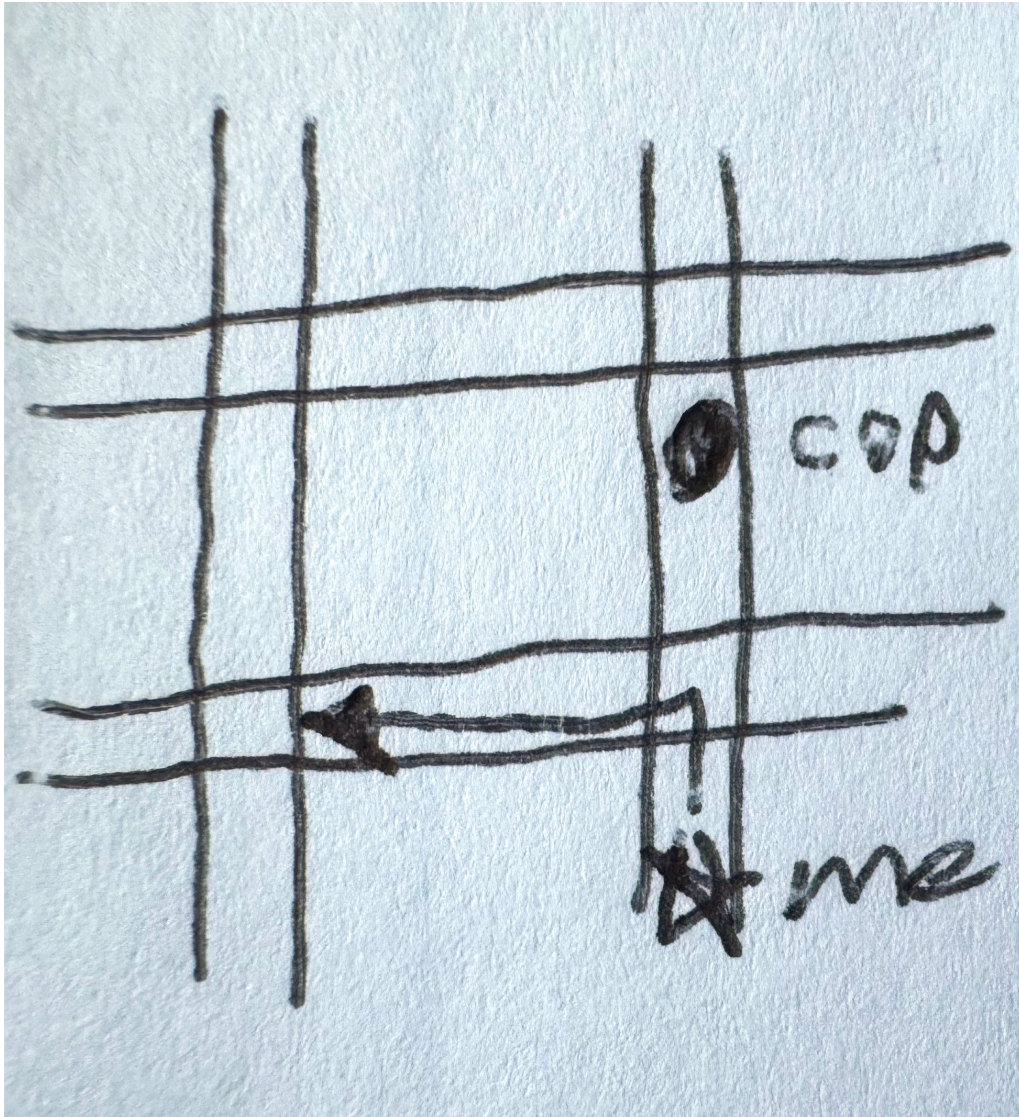


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# Report on the Survey of Urban Habits

Prepared by The Habitorium on September 13, 2024

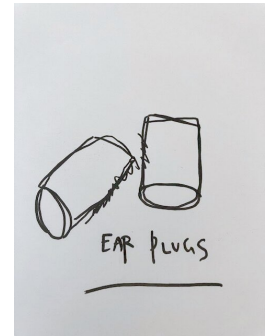
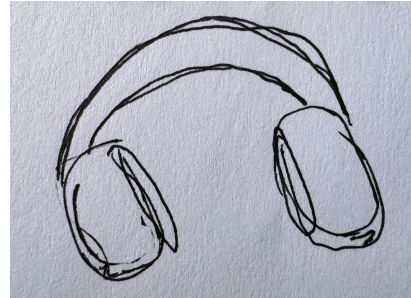
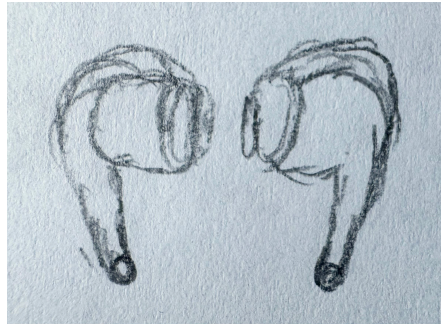
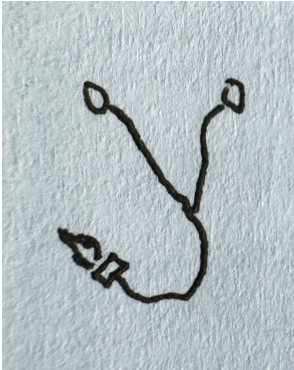
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*Urban Habit Illustration: Avoiding Police*

## Introduction

The Survey of Urban Habits was developed in collaboration with Blagovesta Momchedjikova and Jorge de La Barre, for Volume 31 of StreetNotes. It is the longest survey ever devised by the Haborium, with 15 questions and two opportunities to create habit-specific drawings. There were 4 questions on the survey that asked respondents to identify habits. Each survey had the potential to generate 7 different habits; 260 unique habits are indexed at the end of the report. The survey was published in July 2023 and closed on September 1, 2024. Nine responses were reported on-line and 60 on paper. All but 5 respondents are currently practicing the habit they describe in the survey.



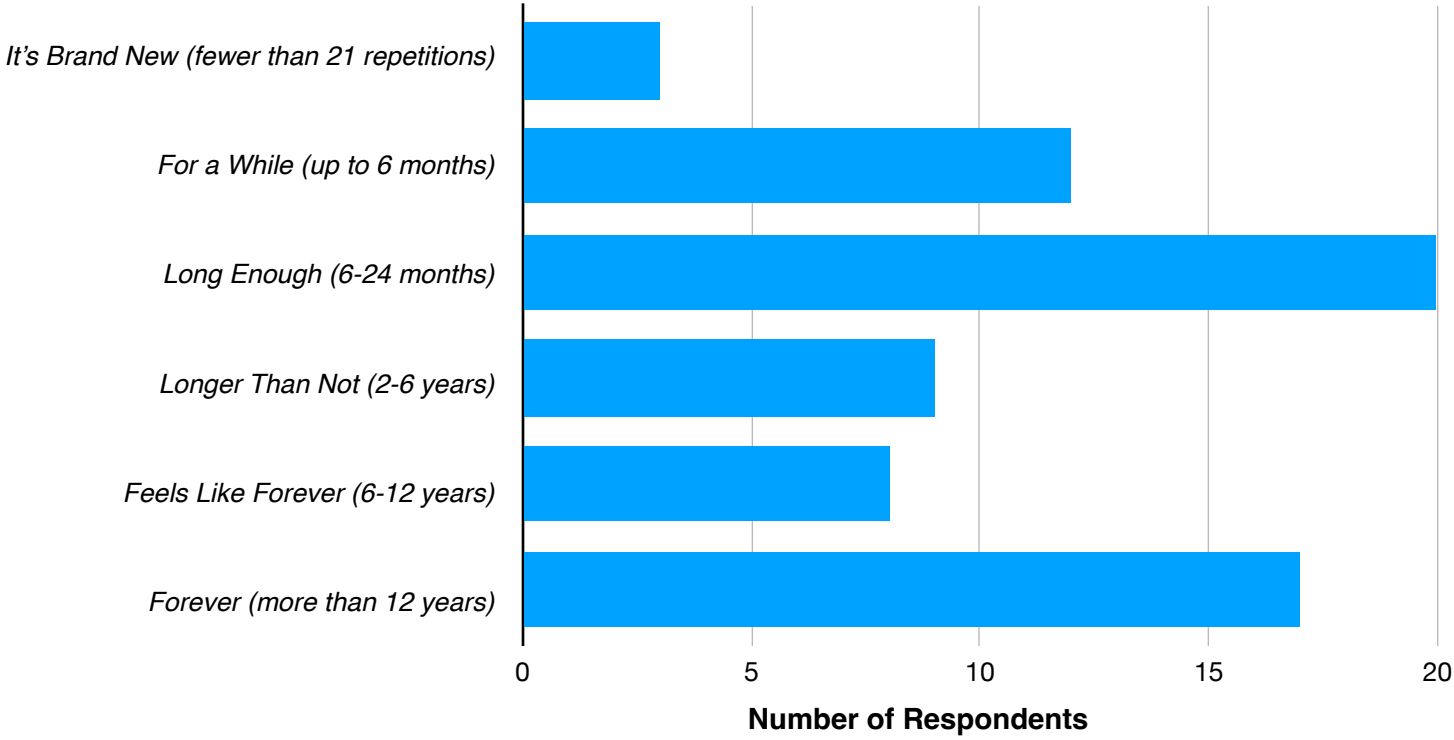
**Several Urban Habits related to listening to music or other media using headphones.  
One noted using earplugs every Saturday night.**

## Summary of Findings

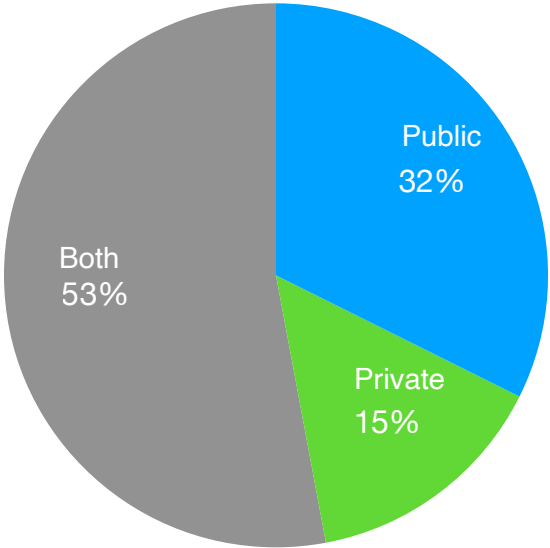
Respondents identified habits they fostered in cities far and wide including: Phoenix, Tucson, and Glendale Arizona, La Mesa, Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco California, New Orleans Louisiana, Cambridge Massachusetts, Jersey City, and Newark New Jersey, Syracuse and New York City New York, Greensboro North Carolina, Pittsburgh and West Reading Pennsylvania, Austin Texas, Buenos Aires Argentina, Rio de Janeiro Brazil, Sophia Bulgaria, Paris France, Budapest Hungary, and Amsterdam the Netherlands. Nearly 20% of the respondents reported practicing their habits in multiple cities.

Several themes emerged from the findings, they describe habits of food procurement, taking public transportation, listening to music on headphones, and walking. One respondent wrote about talking loudly on the phone while walking through the city. Buying and eating bagels was a habit common to 9 responders, but only one entailed the kind of bagel: it's everything. Six responses described habits that break the law (Jay Walking and Turnstile Jumping) and one dodging the law (Avoiding Police). Nature plays a recurring role in the Survey of Urban Habits. Spending time in parks, following the full moon, walking on the shady side of the street, and feeding the birds all make an appearance. One respondent from La Mesa California devised a complex of bird feeders to attract wildlife to her yard. She wrote: "What I especially love about the bird feeding station is the diversity - I never know who's going to show up!"

### Question 6: How long have you practiced this particular Urban Habit?



### Question 9: Do you consider your Urban Habit Public, Private or Both?



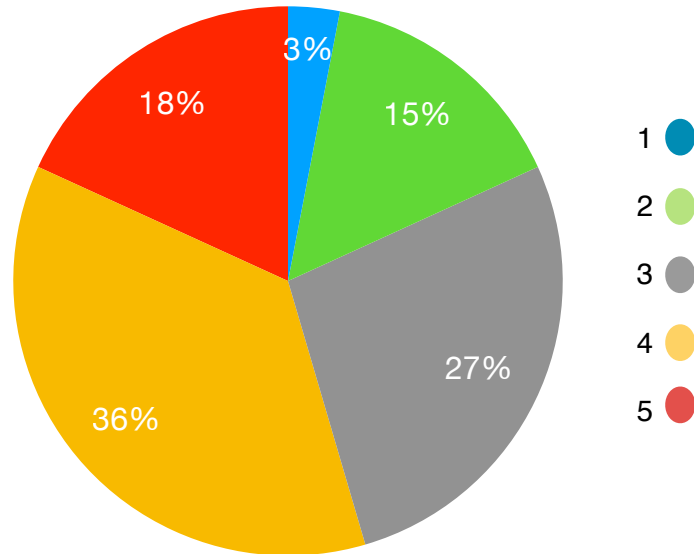
More than 75% of survey respondents have been practicing their habit for at least 6 months. Only 3 reported on a new habit.

When asked about the public or private nature of their Urban Habit, more than half of the respondents identified both private and public aspects of their behavior.

When asked to illustrate their Urban Habit, 76% of the respondents offered a drawing.

## Question 8: How rigid in your Urban Habit?

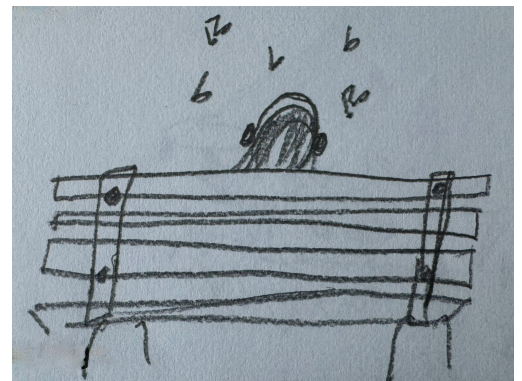
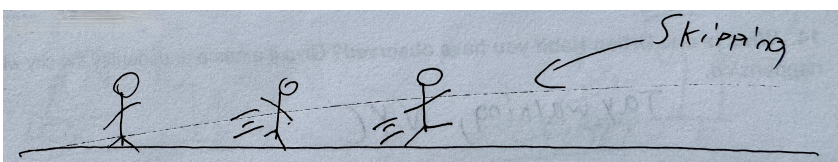
Plot your commitment to strict adherence to your habit on the scale of 1 to 5 where 1 represents “every time I express my habit, it is different” and 5 represents “every single detail of my habit is the same every time I express it.”



### Notable Responses, Surprises and Outliers

Respondents describing habits originating in NYC were inclined to offer geographic details about the city including the names of parks, streets, and specific train lines. Those describing habits outside NYC never specify such details. There is, apparently, a lot of dancing happening in city streets - at least four respondents explored this habit. Of the three people who wrote about jumping the subway turnstile in NYC, one considered the habit a secret. A full 17% of respondents would not change a single thing about their Urban Habit.

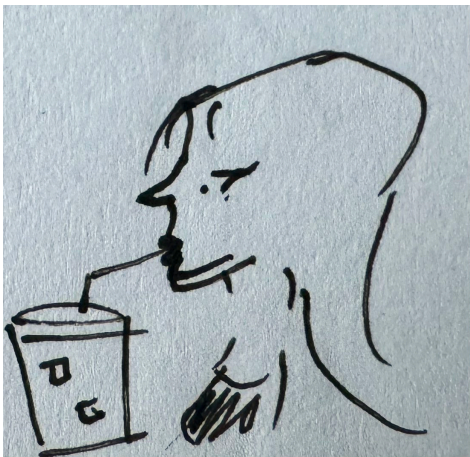
As with all The Habitorium’s surveys, some of the responses were down right poetic. One respondent wrote about the habit of “Looking at myself in building windows,” describing this Urban Habit as “the one time I really get to see myself living my life in action.” Another who offered the habit of Urban Hiking wrote: “I can be like a squirrel trying to cross the road, but I don’t wear earbuds, ever, so my senses are always on alert.” A third, who listens to music while seated in the park, wrote: “its urban because I am a feature of the city in that moment.” Hello City is a poignant habit of addressing the city on approach by car. Another respondent who habitually skips through New York wants to develop the new habit of Group Jazz Skipping.



## An Index of Urban Habits

### Derived from the Survey and Submission to Streetnotes

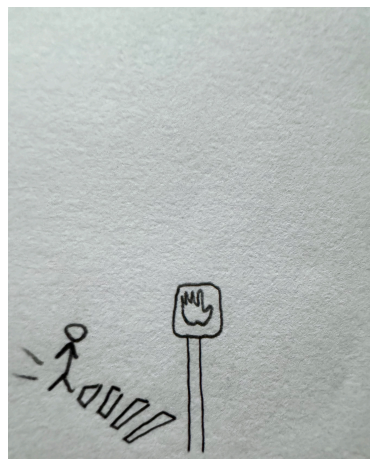
Accordion Playing  
Acting Every Day  
African Dancing in the Park or at Festivals  
Archiving Art Project  
Art Walks  
Asking for Money Entering the Highway  
Attend Protests While Walking Through the Park  
Avoiding Eye Contact  
Avoiding Police  
Begging  
Being a Good Neighbor  
Being at a Train Station  
Being Nosey  
Being Stuck on Highway in Traffic  
Bike Habit - Going to the City Center by Bike  
Biking and Yelling at Walkers  
Bodega Food in Late Nights  
Buy Food From Halal Cart  
Buying a Bacon/Egg/Cheese in a Deli  
Buying a Bagel on an Nyc Deli,  
Buying a Bottle of Water Along the Way  
Buying an Everything Bagel  
Buying Coffee Every Morning From a Cart  
Buying Coffee Every Morning To Get Myself Up



Buying Coffee From Coffee Shop  
Buying Coffee From Mud Daily  
Buying Food From Food Carts on the Street  
Buying Lunch Everyday  
Calm  
Carrying First Aid Supplies  
Church Chat  
Citibiking as a Form of Commuting  
Citibiking in Central Park  
Cleaning Leaves Before the Rain  
Cleaning the Park  
Collect Trash in Separate Bags  
(Plastic, Paper, Metal)  
Collecting Cans  
Commuting to WFMU Once a Week  
Commuting To Work  
Composting  
Conspicuous Leavings  
Cook With Friends  
Cooking Food Rather Than Going Out To Eat  
Crossing Guards Safely Crossing the Street  
With Children  
Crossing the Street Before the Light Says 'Walk'  
Crossing the Streets at Pedestrian Traffic Lights  
Daily Meditation  
Daily Walk  
Dance Rehearsing: Dancers and Tree  
Dancing Outdoors  
Dancing While Walking  
Determining What Language Are They Speaking at  
the Restaurant Table Next to Me  
Develop a Sense of Meaning When It Comes to  
Simply Waking Through the Park  
Dining Alone  
Discussing in Class

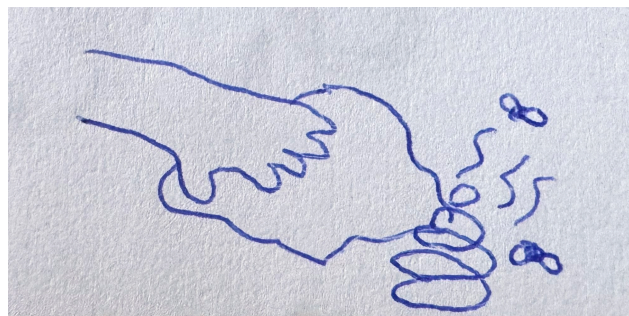
Disposing Trash  
Doing Laundry After I'm in the Sub-Cellar  
Doing Laundry and Ironing  
Doing Work Outside  
Double Parking To Go to the Post Office  
Drinking Coffee Every Morning Right After Waking Up  
Drive Through Coffee Purchasing  
Driving While Playing Music Loudly  
Driving With Windows Down  
Drug Use  
Eating a Bagel While Listening to a Jazzy Pianist in Washington Square Park  
Eating Food From Trailers  
Eating From Street Food Vendors  
Eating on the Go  
Eating Out More Often  
Eating While Walking  
Enjoying Nature  
Enjoying the Moment  
Evading the Subway Fare  
Experiencing Delays  
Falling Asleep in Trains  
Farmer's Markets  
Feeding the Birds  
Filling my Metro Card Before I Need To  
Following the Full Moon  
Food Hoarding  
Foodstagramming  
Foraging  
Forgetting To Eat  
Gentrifying East Flatbush  
Getting an Empanada From the Local Deli  
Getting Groceries  
Getting Ice at Hotel Resort  
Getting Some Fresh Air  
Giving Change to a Homeless Person  
Go to the Deli Every Day  
Goin G to the Theater  
Going Biking Every Morning

Going for a Run  
Going On More Extensive Bikes in More Nature Filled Areas  
Going on Walks  
Going Out To Eat Regularly  
Going Out With Friends  
Going Shirtless  
Going Surfing in the Morning During Summer  
Going the Supermarket After School To Get Food  
Going To Stella Adler Studio  
Going to the Band Rehearsal Room - Music Habit  
Going to the Bookstore Every Weekend  
Going to the City Center by Bike  
Going to the Theater and Performances in Stage Theaters  
Going on Runs  
Good Dog  
Grocery Shopping  
Grocery Shopping at Farmers Markets  
Group Jazz Skipping  
Happy Dog  
Having 'Me' Time  
Hello, City  
Hopping the Subway Turnstile  
Ice Cream Habit - Buying Ice Cream From the Same Place  
Iceskating  
Ignoring Other People  
Internet Vlogger Street Interviews  
Jaywalking



Jogging  
Jogging in the Morning  
Jumping the Turnstile  
Keeping Spare Money In. A Pocket for When People Ask for Money  
Learn Folk Arts  
Letting Dogs Go to the Bathroom on the Street  
Lining Up for Food Truck  
Listening to Music Through Headphones While Walking on the Street  
Listening to Music  
Listening to Music in the Park  
Listening to Music When I Travel  
Listening to Music While Walking in the City  
Listening to News Podcasts on the Headphones on my Phone, Including German Language Radio Stations To Practice my German  
Long Walks and Bike Rides in Parks  
Look at my Phone  
Look Up To Experience the Beauty of New York  
Looking at Myself in Building Windows  
Looking for Birds in the City  
Looking for Rats Int He Subway Track  
Looking in Every Retail Window.  
Making Conversation With Servers  
Mapping Habits  
Mapping Vietnamese Restaurants  
Meditating With Drawing  
Meeting Friends for Coffee Every Saturday at the Same Place and Time.  
My Way on the Highway  
Nocturnal Habit  
Not Paying Attention to the Road When They Drive - Instead Looking at Their Phones  
Observe my Surroundings  
Online Grocery Delivery  
Out-of-the-Urban Tribe, Like a Hiking Club That Is Close to the City.  
Park Habits  
Passing One and the Same Way After Leaving Home and Going Through the Roundabout  
People Watching

Photographing as Seeing  
Photographing NYC Urban Habits  
Picking Up Dog Poop on the Sidewalk of NYC



Picking Up Mobile Orders at Starbucks Daily  
Picnic/Sitting in Parks  
Pizza Every Friday.  
Pizza Habit - Buying Pizza From the Same Place  
Practicing in a Bulgarian Folk Dance Club  
Protesting  
Putting Up Anti Consumerist Posters  
Reading  
Reading a Book in Washington Square Park  
Reading Everyday at Lunchtime  
Recording Architectural History  
Religion Hopping  
Remaining Flexible To Develop Whatever Habits I Need to in Order To Get my Tasks Done in the Most Efficient Way  
Riding a Bike To Work  
Riding a Citibike  
Riding Bike at Night  
Riding Bikes  
Riding Scooter on Lanes  
Riding the Elevator  
River Walks and Kayaking  
Running  
Say Hello to People on the Street  
Saying Hi to People  
Screaming  
Selling Weed in Washington Square Park  
Shop in a Favorite Bakery on my Way Home  
Shopping for Different Food Items From Different/ Specific Shops/Market Places

Singing Happy Bday in Restaurants  
 SIT N SEE  
 Sittin' at the Coffee Shop With a Laptop for Hours  
 Sitting at the Pick Up Panera and People Watching  
 Sitting for Coffee in a Nice Square  
 Sitting on Public Stairs  
 Skateboarding Around the City  
 Skaters Performing Great Figures in the Park  
 Skyline Viewing  
 Slowing Down & Noticing Urban Nature  
 Smoking on a Stoop  
 Spinning Classes on Tuesday and Thursday  
 St. Peters Prep Boys Going To School and Taking Up the Whole Sidewalk  
 Stepping Over Trash  
 Stretching Every Morning  
 Taking 4 of 1 or C Train  
 Taking Grand Central To Work  
 Taking Nightly Strolls  
 Taking Pictures  
 Taking Selfies  
 Taking Selfies All the Time in Front of Specific Places or Monuments  
 Taking the City Bikes to Class  
 Taking the Express Bus Each Morning To Get to Class  
 Taking the Long Way Home Driving With Windows Down  
 Taking the Subway  
 Taking the Train to School  
 Taking the Train, After the Bus Ride  
 Taking the Trash Out  
 Talking on the Phone While Walking on the Street  
 The Indoor Wave  
 The Pittsburgh Twist  
 The Stroller Push: Mom, Grandma, or Nanny?  
 Thinking About Skin Color While Deliberating  
 Jumping the Turnstile  
 Throwing Away Garbage  
 Training  
 Trying Hole in the Wall Restaurants

Unkindness/Aggressiveness  
 Urban Hiking  
 Vaping  
 Visit Special Needs Child Care Facility  
 Waiting at the Crosswalk  
 Waiting for Bus To Come  
 Waking Up Early  
 Walk my Dog to the Grocery Store and Buy Something  
 Walking a Dog  
 Walking and Taking in the Park Signs  
 Walking Around Union Square at Night  
 Walking Around my Neighborhood More To Breathe in Some Fresh Air  
 Walking Around the City With Headphones  
 Walking Casually  
 Walking Dogs in the Morning  
 Walking Everywhere



Walking in the Park  
 Walking my Dog  
 Walking Quickly and With Haste  
 Walking the Dog/Ignoring the Dog While Talking on Cellphone  
 Walking Through Washington Square Park  
 Walking to all my Classes  
 Walking to Class and Blowing Bubbles With Gum  
 Walking to the Park on One Side of the Street Only  
 Walking To Work on the Shady Side  
 Walking Tours  
 Walking to the Bus Stop

Walking With Friends  
Walking Without Being on my Phone  
Walks Around Union Square at Night  
Wandering the Back Streets Looking for a Coffee Shop I Haven't Tried Yet  
Watching Videos  
Watering Trees  
Wearing Earplugs Every Saturday Night  
Wide Angle Habit  
Window Shopping  
Working Outside  
Write in a Park  
Zoning out on Devices While Walking, Biking Driving