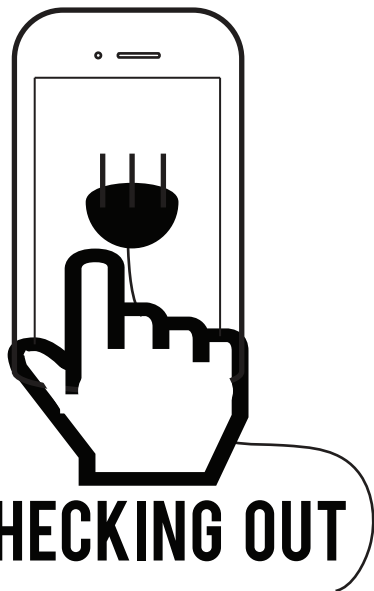


please take one!



Improving the Social Architecture of NYC

DEAR NYC



Dear NYC,

It has come to our attention that mobile phone use in public is disrupting face to face social interaction, pedestrian traffic and one's awareness of place.

This problem must be remedied a.s.a.p. as mobile devices such as smart phones and iPods have become ubiquitous amongst city inhabitants and will only continue to prevail on our streets, in our restaurants and subway cars.

Enclosed is a **MANUAL** for how to most appropriately and efficiently operate your cell phone in public (one that we believe should be enclosed and disseminated with every mobile phone purchase.) The goal of the **Checking Out** manual is to provide conventions and order to our compulsive phone attachment.

With an acceptance & understanding that these devices will not go away, we might as well learn how to most seamlessly implement them into the public spaces we inhabit rather than have them inconvenience & disrupt our lives.

While we promise to check in, texting our friends and loved ones, we become distracted and forget about our current location or company, we inadvertently **check out**.

Let's all learn how to check back in with reality!

Thank you city dwellers & fellow human beings.

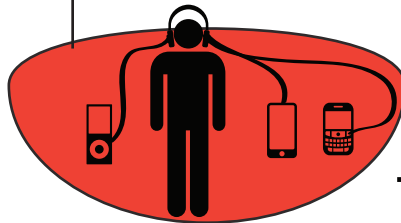
Places that Call for Textiquette a) On the Street



CULTURE OF DISTRACTION...lack of spatial awareness



 zone of attention



rude/disruptive/dangerous =

expecting others to yield
when you're busy looking
down at phone

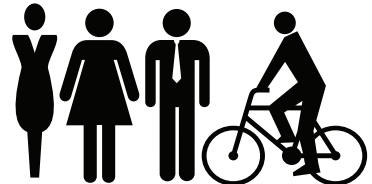
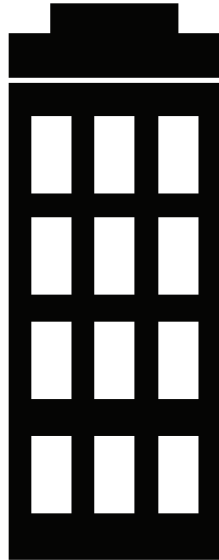


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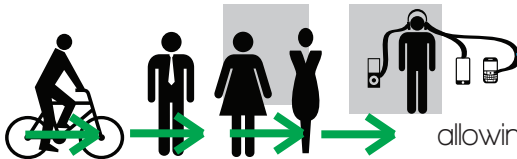
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a) Proper textiquette while on the Street



Solutions...

1. Unless it's an emergency, wait until you're seated somewhere indoors or somewhere less busy.
2. Back against wall, no blocking traffic.
3. Stand still.
4. Be aware of your surroundings/ potential hazards (swinging doors, stairs, cigarette butts, trampling children, bicycles, curbs, trees, metal poles, etc.)



standing still, back against wall.

allowing pedestrians to pass.



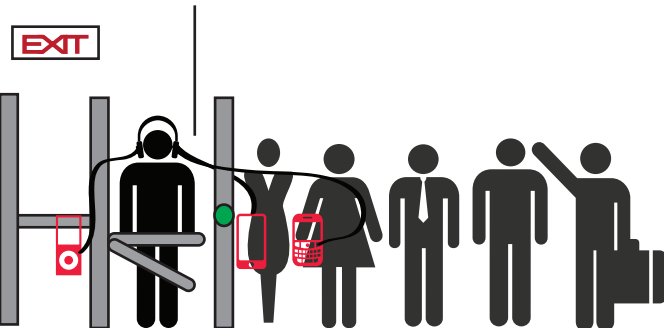
b) Subways/Public transit



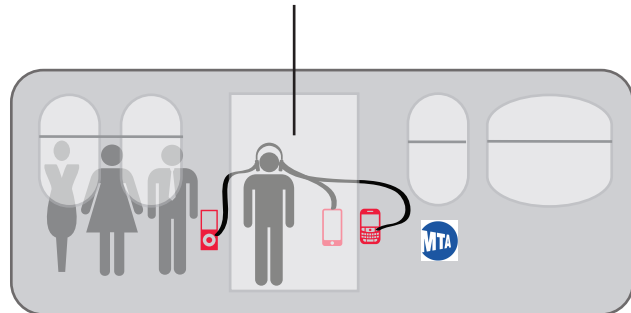
Engaging with your phone on the public transit system can be **disruptive** to the flow of traffic.



blocking subway entry/exit is not cool.



stand clear of the closing doors please.



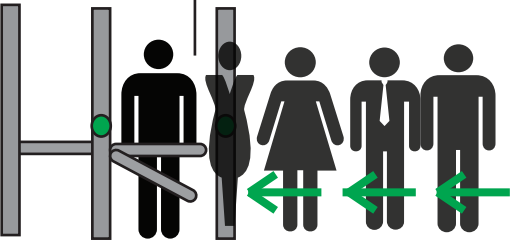
b) Proper phone behaviour while on the subway/ public transit



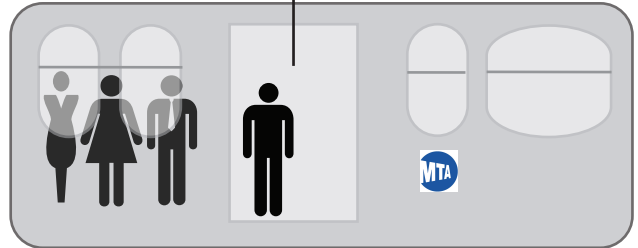
1. **Unplug:** you never know who could be sitting across from you ;)
2. Stay **alert**, there are lots of crazies on the MTA.
3. Stand clear of the closing doors please... do not block traffic.
4. Avoid blabbing out loud while on the bus, save it for your blog.

Waiting to check your phone until you have safely exited busy areas

EXIT



Unplugged, aware of surroundings/others, open to smiles from strangers and moving platforms

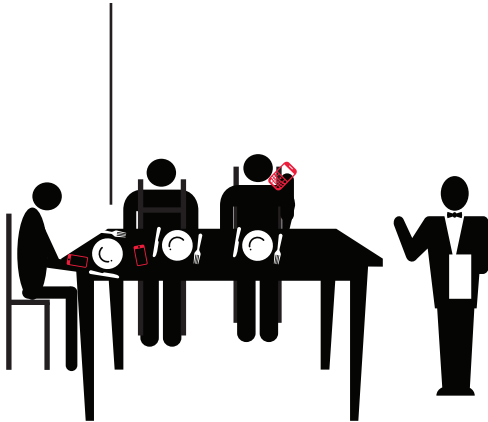


c) Restaurants & Cafes



Texting & chatting at the table conveys to your company that you are not fully present.

tables are for dining, not cell phones.



checking your phone mid-conversation is inconsiderate.



c) Table manners for the 21st Century



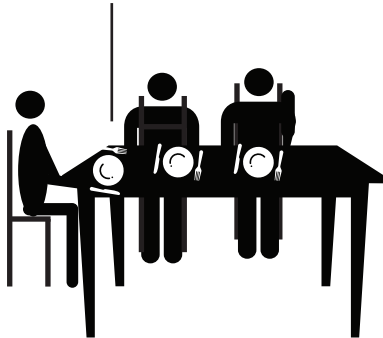
1. No elbows or cellphones on the table.

Treat the dining table as a sacred space, strictly for food, drink and utensils.

2. Remember, dining is the oil of friendship. Humans tend to bond over food, take advantage of this and resist the urge to check your phone.

You are not that important.

enjoying your food & engaging with those around you



Being attentive...



Enforcement

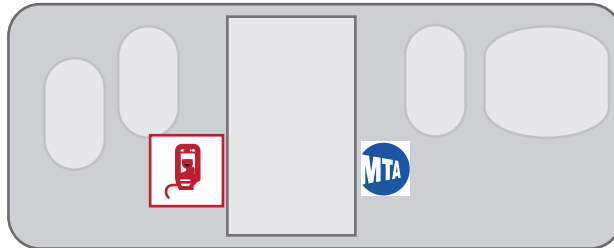


Participating retail stores, restaurants, cafes, press outlets etc. will promote the 'Checking Out' movement via public signage, advertising & social media.

In cases where the social protocol regarding mobile phone usage is ambiguous, restaurants and storefronts will feature 'Checking Out' QR codes which will determine cell phone appropriateness & suitability.

If you lack all self-control, you can download the **Check Out App**, which will automatically turn off your phone upon entering a **Check Out** zone.

Adherence to these protocols is up to the individual, however if one person obeys, others will surely follow.



Hopes & Outcomes



- * Awareness of place you are here

- * Enhanced human connections & interaction



- * More harmonious flow of migration within the city



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Thank you for checking back in :)

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Various graphic symbols used by The Noun Project Collection, thenounproject.com

Handshake by Jake Nelsen, from The Noun Project

Business person by Alfonso Urbán, from The Noun Project

Waiter & table setting by Scott Lewis, from The Noun Project

Table by Sofie Hauge Katan, from The Noun Project

Headphones by Dima Yagnyuk, from The Noun Project

Smart phone by George Agpoon, from The Noun Project

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