

A dangerous creature is *haunting* South Korean crossroads

In South Korea smartphone cases come with rings *mounted* on the back, to prevent clumsy owners from dropping them. This makes people look like they are *literally* married to their phones. In many of Seoul's most Instagrammable coffee shops, couples on dates spend vastly more time looking at their screens than at each other. The *ramifications* go beyond the potentially *dire* consequences for romance.

haunting 鬼见愁的

mount 安装

literally 逐字地；简直

ramification 结果；分支

dire 可怕的；悲惨的

Walk around the streets of Seoul or any other South Korean city, and there is a real risk of bumping into people whose eyes are glued to their smartphone screens. *Insurers* estimate that around 370 traffic accidents annually are caused by pedestrians using smartphones. That figure does not include those who *bump into* lamp posts *and the like* while *perusing* the latest cat videos.

insurer 保险公司

bump into 撞到

and the like 等等

peruse 精读；详细考察

The government initially tried to fight the “smombie” (a *portmanteau* of “smartphone” and “zombie”) epidemic by distributing hundreds of stickers around cities *imploping* people to “be safe” and look up. This seems to have had little effect even though, in Seoul at least, it recently replaced the stickers with *sturdier* plastic boards.

portmanteau 混合词

implore 恳求

sturdy 坚固的；坚定的

Instead of *appealing to* people's good sense, the authorities have therefore resorted to trying to save them from being run over. Early last year, they began to *trial* floor-level traffic lights in smombie hotspots in central Seoul. Since then, the experiment has been extended

around and beyond the capital. **For the moment**, the government is retaining old-fashioned eye-level pedestrian lights as well. But in future, the way to look at a South Korean crossroads may be down.

appeal to 诉诸于; 吸引; 呼吁

trial 试验的; 审讯的

for the moment 暂时