

Name:

Class:

Teacher:

# How to survive the drive

Former professional rally car driver turned safety instructor Danielle Striker offers *Dirt Wheels* readers her top 7 tips for safe wet-weather driving.



**WHY** are there more road accidents during wet weather? While poor conditions play a part, the main cause is risky driver behaviour. Bad weather shouldn't lead to bad driving. However, safe driving in bad weather does require drivers to be more prepared, vigilant and patient. The following tips will help you stay safe in the wet.

- 1 As part of your routine car maintenance, check that your tyres have adequate tread and your windscreen wipers are functioning effectively.
- 2 My racing days proved that slippery shoes = slippery pedals. So rub your shoes on the car mat a few times to dry them off when you first get into your car.
- 3 In gloomy or overcast conditions, turn on your headlights. This helps you see what's ahead, and also alerts other drivers to your whereabouts.
- 4 Reduce your speed at all times, even on open or empty roads. Ensure that you take corners more slowly than usual and avoid tight cornering. It's difficult to predict the traction between road and tyres on a wet and slippery surface, so turning is the most dangerous part of wet-weather driving.
- 5 Where possible, drive in the middle lane and maintain a safe distance from the vehicles in front (apply the three-second rule).
- 6 When changing lanes or turning, indicate earlier than usual. This helps avoid possible collisions, and also shows respect towards other road users, creating safer driving conditions for everyone.
- 7 Be watchful for puddles or debris on the road. If rally driving taught me one thing, it's that even if you've taken the same route a thousand times before, you can never know for certain what's up ahead.

If at any stage you encounter conditions that you feel are unsafe – such as poor visibility or flooded roads – pull over in a safe location and wait. Trying to avoid bad weather by getting to your destination more quickly is dangerous. Remember, it's not a race!

### Tasks

Complete an extended piece of writing that is in the style and format of a Procedure text.

A Procedure provides instructions about how to make or do something.

You are going to write an instructional text about safety, related to a recreational activity, such as mountain hiking or white-water rafting. Work through the steps and then write your own Procedure text.

### Glossary

**action verb:** A verb that indicates an observable action or happening. For example: The animals **are fed** every day.; The birds **fought** over the last crumbs.

**adjectival phrase:** A phrase that gives more information about a noun. For example: That story was **more interesting**.; The girl **with the cast on her leg** sat near the back.

**adverbial clause:** A dependent clause that adds extra information about the action, event or state described in an independent clause. For example: The child came first **because he was the fastest swimmer**.; **If it rains**, the concert in the park will be cancelled.

**command:** A sentence that gives a direction or seeks an active response. For example: Leave here!; Go to the supermarket for oranges.; Preheat the oven.

**noun:** A word used to refer to a person, place, thing or idea. For example: man, city, lake, freedom.

### Step 1: Choose your topic

1 What kind of recreational activity will you write about? Some suggestions have been provided for you. Add three ideas of your own.

Mountain hiking

White-water rafting

2 Write the title of your Procedure text. The title should tell readers what the instructions are for.

## Step 2: Background information

You will need to provide the reader with useful information about your chosen recreational activity. Use these questions as a starting point to your research.

- 1 List the equipment required for the activity.
- 2 List any safety gear required for the activity.
- 3 Explain how different weather conditions could affect the activity.
- 4 Are other people a consideration when undertaking the activity? If so, explain why and how. Would you need to act or think differently if people are present?
- 5 What circumstances might cause you to stop the activity? Explain why.

## Step 3: Language features of Procedures

Find one example of each language feature used in *How to survive the drive*.

- 1 command:
- 2 action verb:
- 3 adverbial clause:

### Step 3: Language features of Procedures continued

4 noun:

5 adjectival phrase:

### Step 4: Language features for your Procedure

Write one instruction about your recreational activity as a command.

### Step 5: Structure

Procedure texts have two stages: Goal and Steps. Some Procedures also include an optional stage, Personal Comment. Describe what happens in each stage in *How to survive the drive*. Write one or two sentences for each stage.

1 Goal – the task to be achieved

2 Steps – the steps or instructions to complete the task

3 Personal Comment – the writer gives their own opinion on the topic

### Step 6: Create your own text

Now it is time to write your Procedure text. Follow the structure in **Step 5**. Use the language features mentioned in **Step 3** and **Step 4**. Remember, readers should be able to follow the instructions provided.

If you are unsure about where to start, take another look at *How to survive the drive*. Remember to use full sentences, and correct punctuation and spelling!

## Teacher comments