

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED?...

You're running late and the car won't start. You left the interior light on all night after looking for your mobile phone that had fallen off the passenger seat when you went round *that* bend.

- Do you know how to jump start a car?
- Do you know how to clutch start a car?
- Do you have "road side assistance" and a spare hour or more to wait?

You got your car started and you are on your way, albeit a little late. The low fuel light comes on. You know it takes a good 15 minutes to queue, refuel and pay; 15 minutes you don't have so you press on planning to buy fuel on the way home...."I should make it", you think to yourself. You turn a corner and the sun is glaring straight at you, the windscreen is dirty and it's really hard to see through. You hit the washers. The wipers simply smear the dirt across the windscreen – the washer bottle is empty. Now it's even harder to see. You turn again and the sun is gone. *Phew*. SPEED CAMERA, darn! Hope that wasn't school zone time. You're a little later than usual so it might be. You'll have to wait a couple of weeks to find out. You glance down to check on that fuel gauge, you turn another corner, the sun hits you again the next thing you know you've run up the back of a car stopped in traffic.

Lucky for you this is just a story. While I was writing this I make a few mistakes myself but I just hit [Ctrl]-Z¹ to make things better. Let's [Ctrl]-Z² this story.

- Don't leave your mobile phone on the passenger seat or anywhere within reach – it's just too tempting. Put it in a bag or the glove box switched off or at least on silent but without vibrate.
- Make sure you top up the tank *before* it gets down to a ¼. Yes, waiting for cheap petrol days is a consideration, so on expensive days buy what you need and on cheaper days fill up.
- Driving and car maintenance is a job-lot, they go hand-in-hand. The washer bottle needs to be filled, the tyres checked and windows (all) cleaned both inside and out. Carry cleaning gear with you, it is really simple to do!
- Most importantly be prepared to stop mid-way through your journey to take care of maintenance issues. Fuel, windscreen, *yourself*, etc.
- Know how to jump and clutch start a car and change a tyre.

When preparing for your driving test have you considered life as a solo driver?

Have you prepared for independence through experience and planning to be resourceful?

Are you ready to face the consequences of being out there alone?

It's dark and the car just conks out;

You get a flat, it's raining, there's plenty of passing traffic but no one will stop.

You're in a crash and the other person is not humoured by the situation.

1 [Ctrl]-Z on a PC is "undo"....for Mac users it is [Command]-Z

2 ibid