

## Cars and Nature

*Rick*

Scenic drives are a nice way to enjoy cars, and the countryside. Four wheel drives allow for a greater opportunity for a diverse experience when going for a scenic drive.

When four wheel driving, being in the bush takes you where not many people can go. To experience the closeness of nature, timing is important. Dawn and dusk are often best, with many different lighting effects, and animals on the move. Using a car with good off road capabilities makes it possible to go where most people will not be able to go. This allows for a much more natural setting to view native plants and wildlife.

The driver needs a good awareness of his car, and the track. Correct tyre pressure is very important, especially in soft sand driving. It will also make a big difference to how far the car can go in boggy conditions. Selecting the right gear for very difficult situations beforehand is a must. Often this is not possible in the middle of very soft sand, mud or half way up a steep hill. When going down very steep slopes, braking can cause a loss of control. Being in a low enough gear and engine braking is much safer and gives better control.

The nice, quiet and peaceful bush away from people and man-made things is something I really enjoy. Also, finding and looking out for wildlife, and watching their movements. Four wheel driving is a relaxing pastime, and you see more bush than if you were walking. It is something I will always enjoy doing.



*I came to Australia when I was four years old, with a Mum and Dad that could not speak English, so my early schooling did not go well. Leaving school halfway through year nine, only able to read and write a little and not really able to spell at all. I worked in the building trade all my working life. Then at forty-five, I was in a bad car accident and could no longer do manual labour. Knowing I needed to improve my writing and especially my spelling skills, I contacted Read Write Now. I have been with my tutor for a year now, and I feel I have improved quite a lot. I do find some of it difficult but enjoyable as well. I am very glad that I started this program.*



# Activities

## Find the word in the text that fits each description.

- Attractive countryside view or outlook
- A chance, a possibility
- Capacities, things you can do
- Caused by air in an enclosed space
- Before doing something else
- An adequate amount, not too much
- An activity done for pleasure


## Punctuation

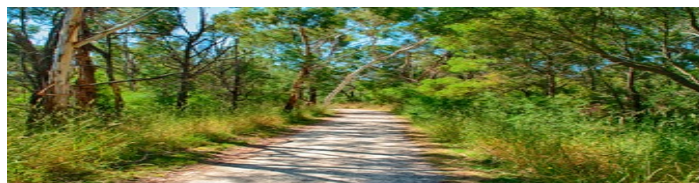
In his final paragraph, Rick puts a hyphen (a dash) in the word : man-made, to indicate that the two words need to be read **together**. This helps the reader to make sense of the sentence. Rick uses some other expressions which consist of several words, like ‘four wheel driving’.

If you put these expressions in quotation marks (speech marks), or use a hyphen (a dash) between the two words which need to be read together (four-wheel driving), this improves the reading flow.

Here are some more examples:

- |                                |                 |                            |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ... animals on the move.       | <i>could be</i> | animals ‘on the move’.     |
| ... good off road capabilities | <i>could be</i> | good off-road capabilities |
| Correct tyre pressure ...      | <i>could be</i> | Correct tyre-pressure ...  |

Are there any other places where you would like to see more punctuation used, to make the reading easier? *Discuss this with your tutor.*



**Questions to see how well you read:**

What time of day does Rick recommend for four-wheel driving? .....

Why does he prefer these two times? .....

Find 4 things that Rick says are important when four-wheel driving:

.....  
.....

What method of slowing or braking does Rick suggest, when going down steep slopes?

.....

What happened to Rick when he was 45 years old? (*Hint: It's in italics*)

.....



**Underline the words which are wrong:**

When for whel driving, being in the bush takes you were not many peepel can go. To experiense the cloceness of nature, timing is impoportent. Dawn and duske are offen best, with meny diferent lighteing effects, and animals on the moove. Using a car with good off rowed capabilities makes it posible to go where most peopel will not be abel to goe. This allows for a much mor nachural setting to vewe native plants and wildlighf.

*There are 21 mistakes in this copy of the text! Did you find 21 errors?      Yes      No*

## Paragraphs

A paragraph can be thought of as a group of sentences which continue the same topic or theme.

Rick's second paragraph could be split into two paragraphs. If you were going to do this, where would you split it? *Discuss this with your tutor.*

## Word Search

Find these words in the grid:

GREATER  
BEFOREHAND  
DAWN

DIVERSE  
AUSTRALIA  
STEEP

LIGHTING  
WILDLIFE  
DUSK

NATURAL  
PEACEFUL  
QUIET

g	r	e	a	t	e	r	w	o	d
n	a	t	u	r	a	l	i	p	i
i	d	u	s	k	k	c	l	e	v
t	e	s	t	e	e	p	d	a	e
h	i	m	r	o	a	d	l	c	r
g	o	n	a	r	p	e	i	e	s
i	n	t	l	f	a	e	f	f	e
l	q	u	i	e	t	p	e	u	n
o	x	d	a	w	n	p	m	l	i
b	e	f	o	r	e	h	a	n	d

## Sort these words into their correct category:

driving      countryside      natural      correct      tyre  
 scenic      diverse      opportunity      nature      effects  
 wildlife      steep      awareness      difference      boggy  
 going      peaceful      braking      finding      looking      control

Nouns (Names)	Activities (Verbs)	Descriptive words (Adjectives)