

WORKOUT #5

READ THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE. LOCATE AND LABEL ANY ORNAMENTS.

Driving and Idiocy

Somewhere, in a galaxy far, far away, there must be people who can drive their vehicles without causing injury or death to someone else. Yet, for some unusual reason, driving in the southwest is dodgy and downright dangerous. In terms of driving in the West, even parallel-parking is perilous, if not precarious. Seriously, on a listing of the world's worst drivers, Rome, Italy, was named the world's most dangerous place to drive (second only to Nigeria) according to several experts. But, the southwest corner of the United States must be somewhere towards the top of the list. Honestly, being unbelievably bad at driving must be a prerequisite to living in the West. The only noted exception may be the state of Oregon which has the most careful drivers in the United States. However, the drivers of New Mexico, Utah, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, and California are some of the craziest drivers that I have ever seen.

To clarify, dangerous driving to me includes swerving (since the person is not paying attention), driving speeds five-miles-above the speed limit, stopping suddenly, not signaling, not wearing your seatbelt, and not having any gosh-darn sense. Have you ever seen some silly girl or guy driving down the road while text-messaging their friends? I have seen it daily. Or, how about the guy or girl doing their hair or shaving while driving? What the heck happen to doing personal hygiene and email at home? What the heck happened to obeying the law and thinking about others?

Plain and simple: People need to stop driving so recklessly. People need some common sense when they drive. People need to be more careful drivers, and use their signals. And, finally, people need to leave earlier or just accept that they have to slow down. First of all, driving recklessly is illegal. Second, not using your signal is illegal. And, finally, driving above the speed limit is illegal. So, if people are such law-abiding citizens, then why do they continue to do these things?

Now, texting and eating a tuna fish sandwich might not be illegal, but it should be. Put it this way: If you were flying on a plane and the pilot decided to call his wife/girlfriend while having a snack in the midst of landing the airplane, how would you feel? When I am heading towards the expressway, and the lady in front of my car is reaching for her cellular phone before entering traffic, I feel scared. But considering flying in a plane next to driving... bad comparison.

The likelihood of being killed by crashing in an airplane being struck by lightning, or by being shot by a mugger is almost non-existent. Yet, next to Cancer, Stroke, and Heart Disease, motor vehicle accidents are one of the leading and most significant causes of mortality and morbidity in the United States. In other words, your chances of dying or losing some substantial part of your body from driving down the road are actually pretty good. The accident need not be caused by another person's recklessness. You can always rely on making mistakes yourself. Or, you can rely on your vehicle to break something important at the worst times.

One source recently concluded that you are likely to get in at least three accidents in your life. What is the likelihood that one of these accidents is fatal or perhaps debilitating? Gosh! I hate to think of the odds. We need to drive safely. We need to consider others. We need to be invested in our vehicle's regular maintenance. Moreover, we need to convince our loved ones to be more careful while driving. Our own lives could depend on it.