

A wide-angle photograph of a two-lane road covered in snow, stretching towards a distant horizon. The road has white dashed lines. The sky is overcast and grey. The overall tone is cold and wintry.

# Safer Driving in Winter

**with** Vicky Lovell

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Part of the *Safer Driving Series*

**START**



Introduction

important

This course is designed for users who hold a full UK driving licence.

While the course provides information about winter driving, it does NOT replace your own proper judgement when driving, and taking into account factors including (but not limited to):

- your particular vehicle
- traffic
- weather
- road conditions
- your own personal circumstances, driving experience and ability

Accept and continue

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Introduction A 1

Quiz WC P

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Winter Driving Hazards M90 (A90)

Preparing To Drive B 8000

Introduction

welcome

Vicky Lovell

30+ years experience reducing driving risk

Featured as driving expert on BBC's award-winning *Driving Academy*


*Safer Driving at Work* e-learning also available


Winter Driving Hazards

poor weather

rain, hail, sleet, snow, ice, high winds, freezing fog, flooding


Winter Driving Hazards







# low temperatures & traction

reduced grip due to sleet, snow and ice



Winter Driving Hazards







# low temperatures & traction


reduced grip due to sleet, snow and ice

e.g. caution when passing junctions



Winter Driving Hazards







# low temperatures & traction

reduced grip due to sleet, snow and ice

e.g. caution when passing junctions

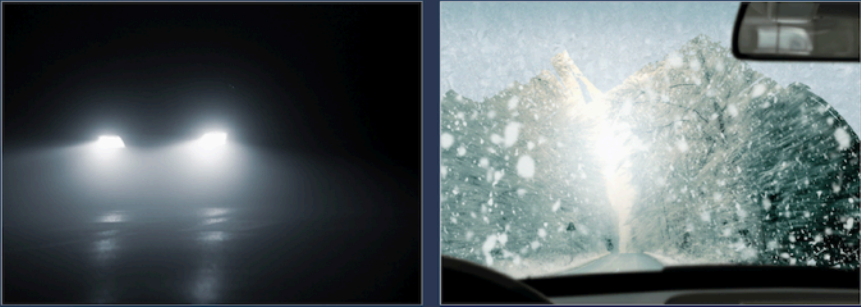



Winter Driving Hazards



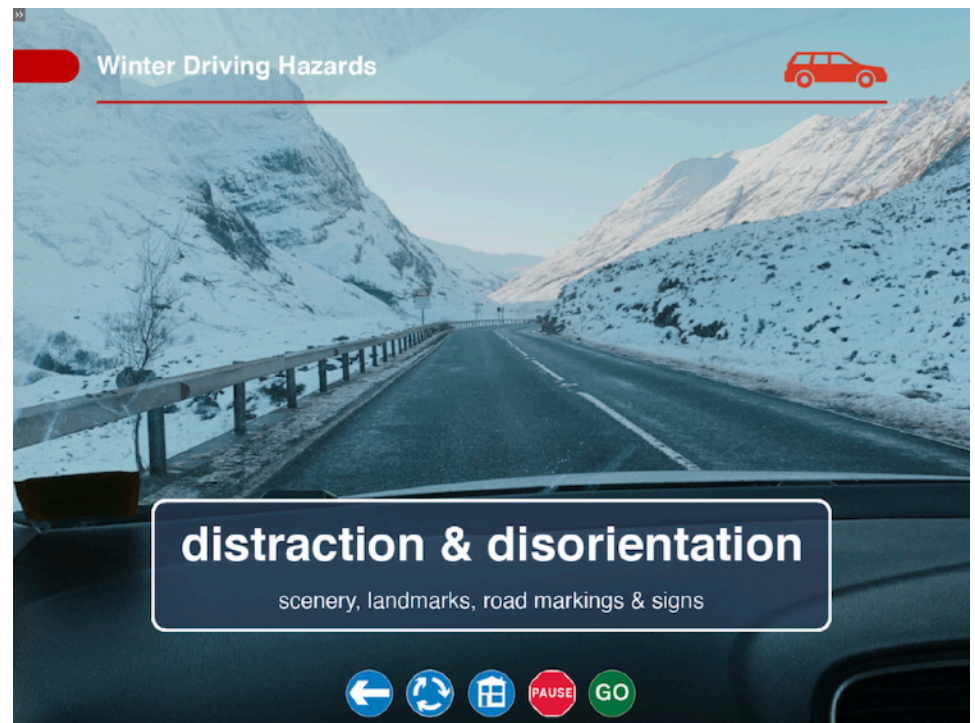
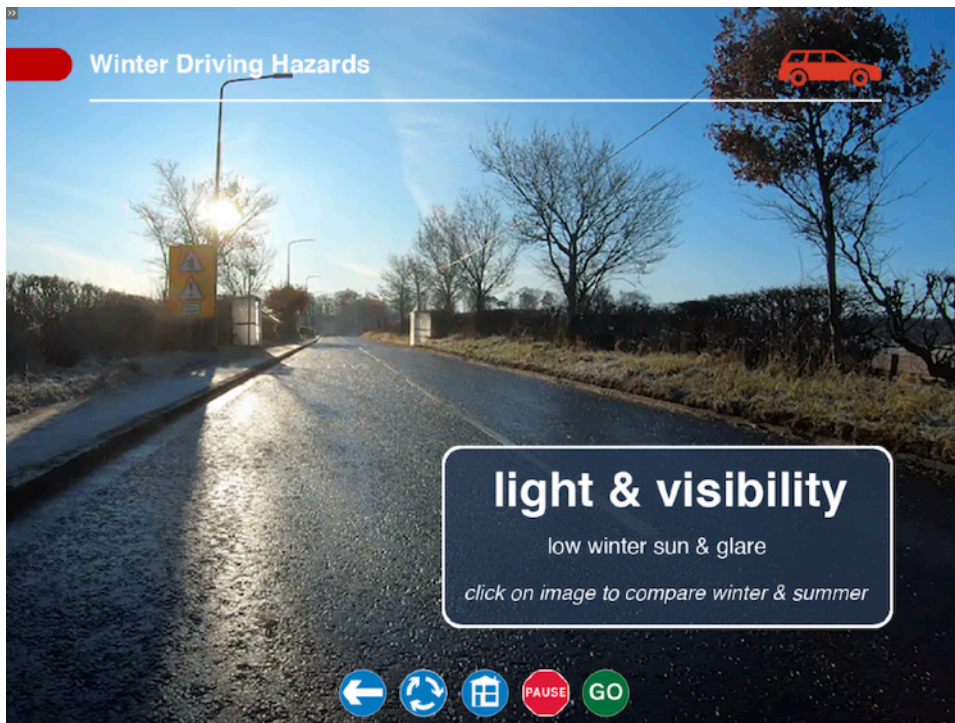
# light & visibility

darkness or low light conditions, reduced visibility

















Preparing to Drive

# journey planning

proactive planning  
check weather forecasts

The screenshot shows a weather app interface for Crianlarich. It displays the current temperature as 2°C, a weather icon of a sun behind a cloud with snowflakes, and a forecast for the next hour: 'Strong winds and heavy snow showers'. Below this, there's a table for the next few days:

Today	Wed	Thu	Fri
2°	2°	-4°	3°
1°	1°	-5°	-5°

At the bottom of the slide are navigation icons: back, forward, home, pause, and go.

Preparing to Drive

# journey planning

proactive planning  
check weather forecasts

weather warnings

- yellow
- amber
- red

The screenshot shows the UK weather warnings page from the Met Office. It lists warnings for 'Wind & snow' for Monday 10 Feb and Wednesday 12 Feb. A map of the UK shows the affected areas in yellow. The text 'What to expect' lists potential travel delays and safety advice. 'What should I do?' suggests checking travel impacts and keeping homes warm.

At the bottom of the slide are navigation icons: back, forward, home, pause, and go.

Preparing to Drive

# journey planning

proactive planning  
check weather forecasts

weather warnings

- yellow
- amber
- red

route choice & conditions

- stick to main roads

A photograph of a yellow snowplow clearing a snowy road. The plow is moving from left to right, leaving a clear path behind it. The road is covered in snow, and there are trees in the background.

At the bottom of the slide are navigation icons: back, forward, home, pause, and go.



Preparing to Drive

## journey planning

proactive planning

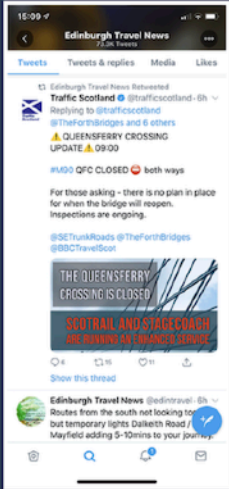

check weather forecasts

weather warnings

- yellow
- amber
- red

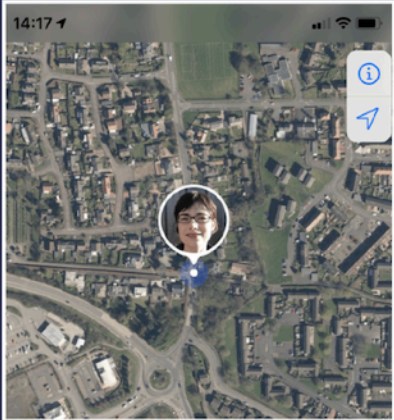

route choice & conditions

- stick to main roads
- route information


Preparing to Drive

## communication

progress monitoring

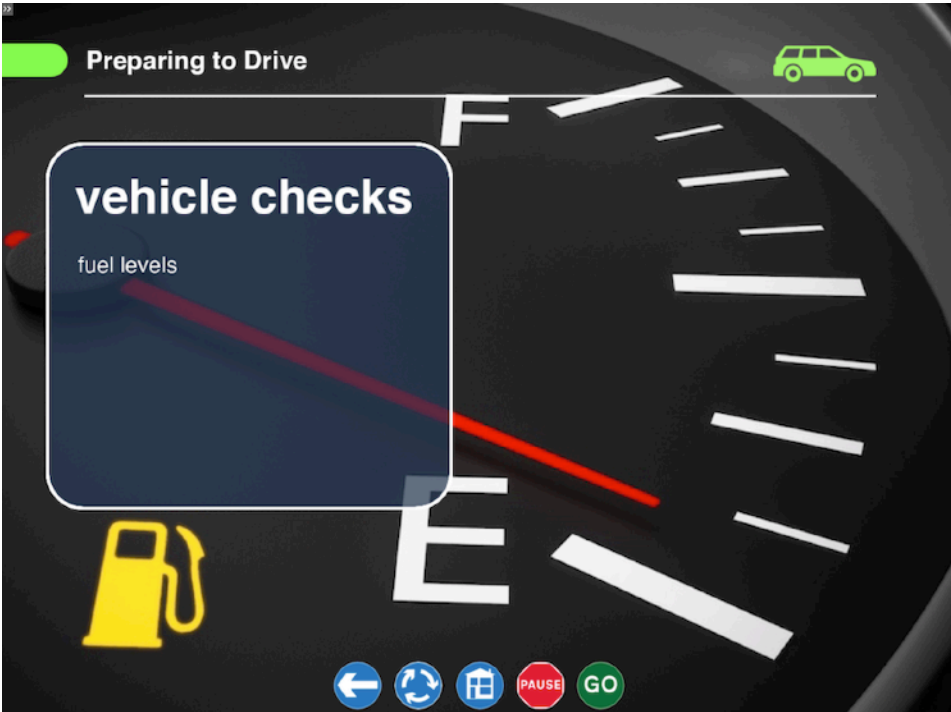


what3words



Preparing to Drive

## vehicle checks

fuel levels

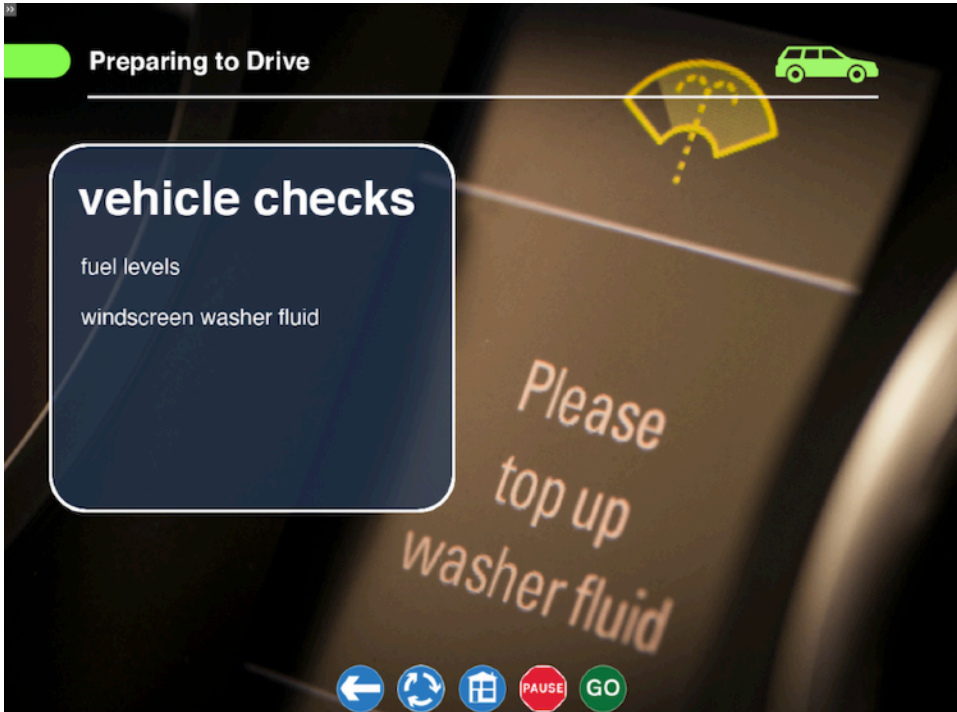





Preparing to Drive

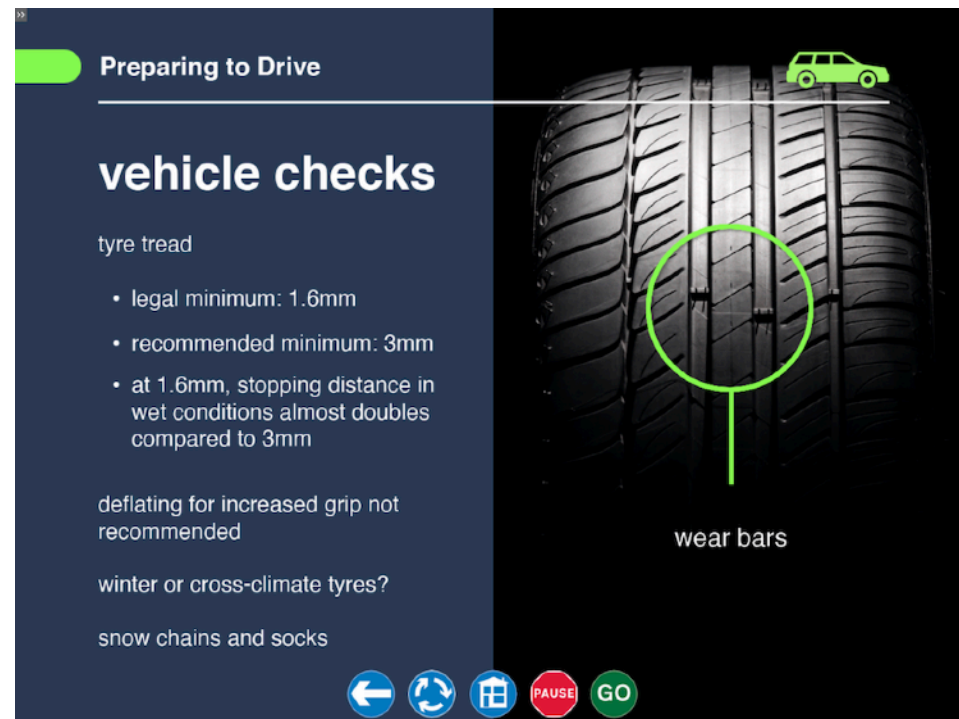
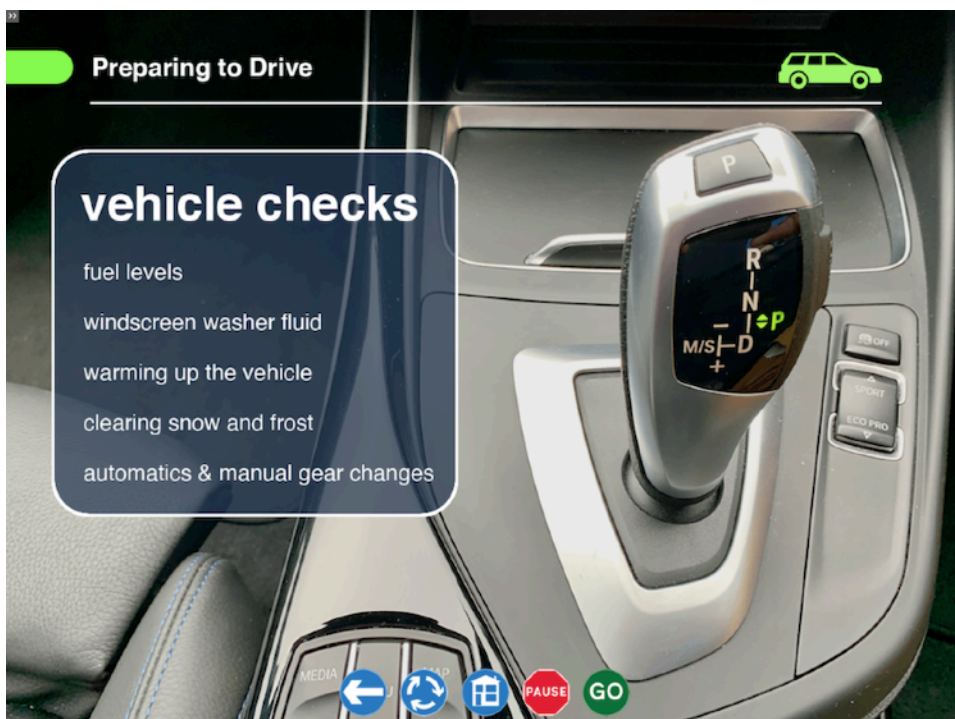
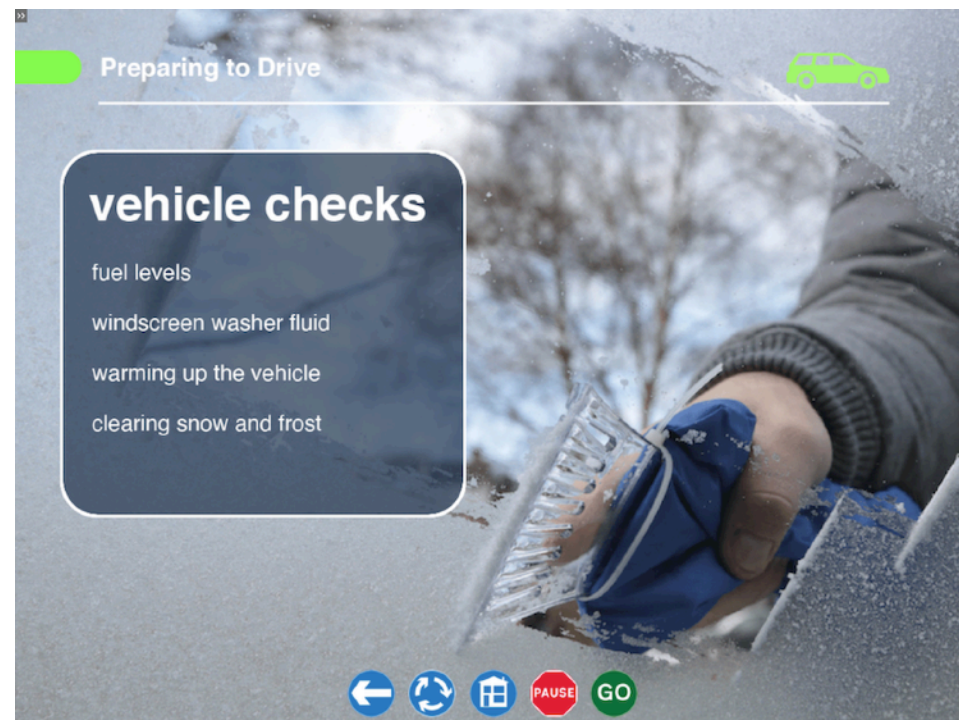
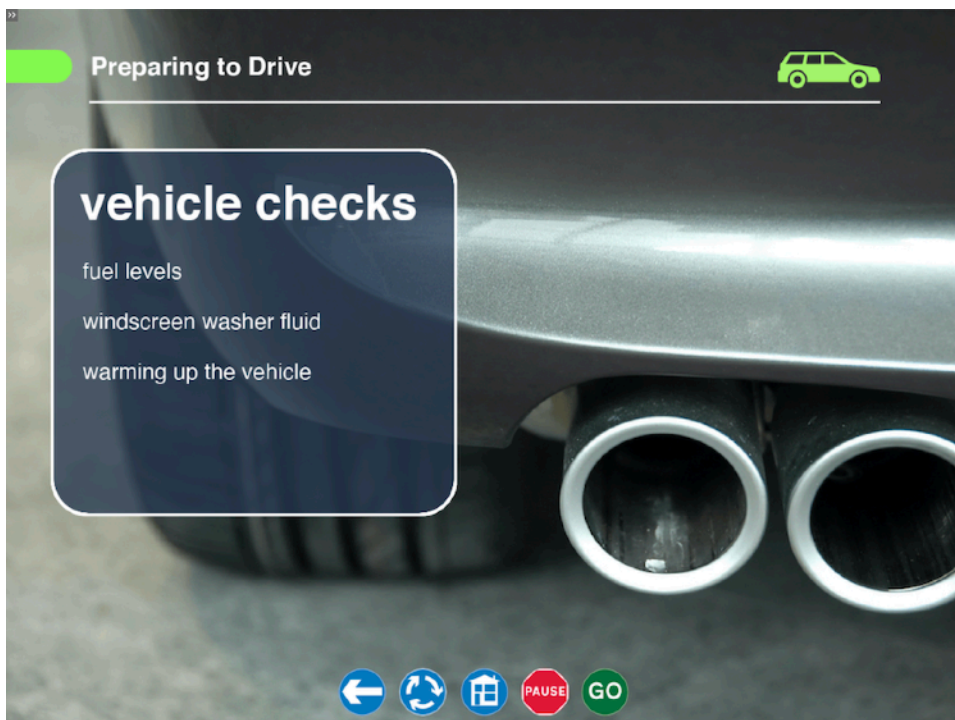
## vehicle checks

fuel levels

windscreen washer fluid








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## Preparing to Drive

# kit to take with you

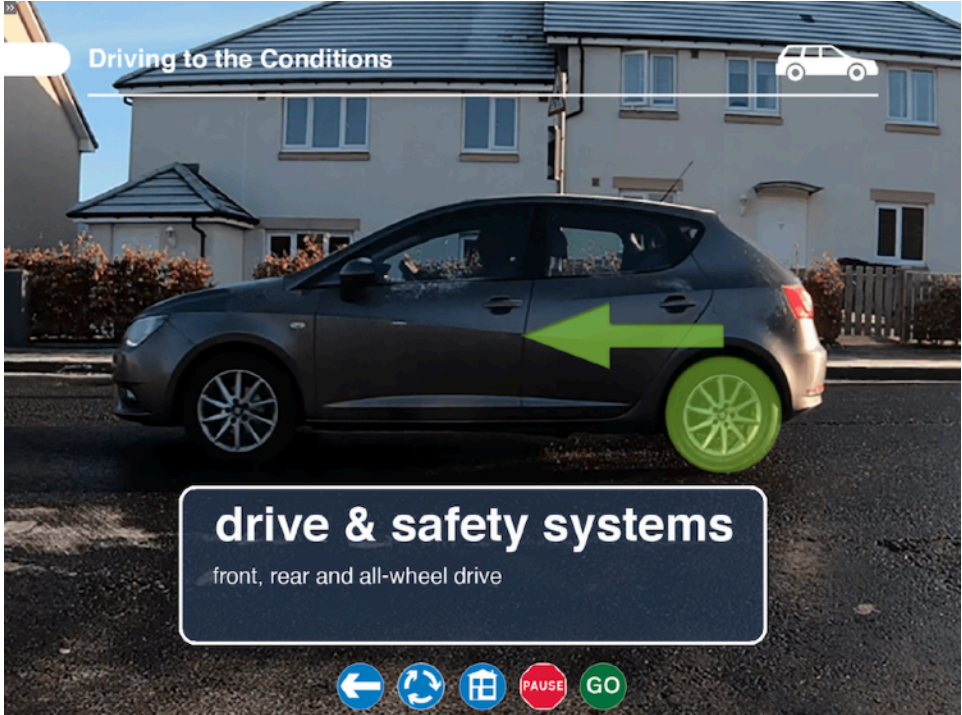
- ice scraper & de-icer
- brush or broom
- mobile
- shovel
- warm, waterproof gear
- food & drink
- foil blanket
- torch



Navigation icons: back, forward, home, pause, go

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## Driving to the Conditions




# drive & safety systems

front, rear and all-wheel drive

Navigation icons: back, forward, home, pause, go

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## Driving to the Conditions



# drive & safety systems

front, rear and all-wheel drive    stability programmes

traction control    anti-lock braking system (ABS)

Navigation icons: back, forward, home, pause, go

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## Driving to the Conditions

# general principles

- observation & planning ahead
- try to keep vehicle moving
- accelerate & decelerate slowly & gently
- gaps between vehicles
- driving uphill

**C.O.A.S.T.**

- CONCENTRATION
- OBSERVATION
- ANTICIPATION
- SPACE
- TIME

Navigation icons: back, forward, home, pause, go



Driving to the Conditions

**standing water**

if deep, don't risk it...!  
drive slowly in low gear  
brake testing

photo reproduced by kind permission of Katielee Arrowsmith

Navigation icons: back, refresh, home, pause, go

Driving to the Conditions

**fog**

poor visibility AND slippery paste on road  
clean windows & regular windscreen washing  
tailgating  
junctions  
when to use fog lights: < 100m

Navigation icons: back, refresh, home, pause, go

Driving to the Conditions

**fog**

poor visibility AND slippery paste on road  
clean windows & regular windscreen washing  
tailgating  
junctions  
when to use fog lights: < 100m  
fog light symbols

Navigation icons: back, refresh, home, pause, go

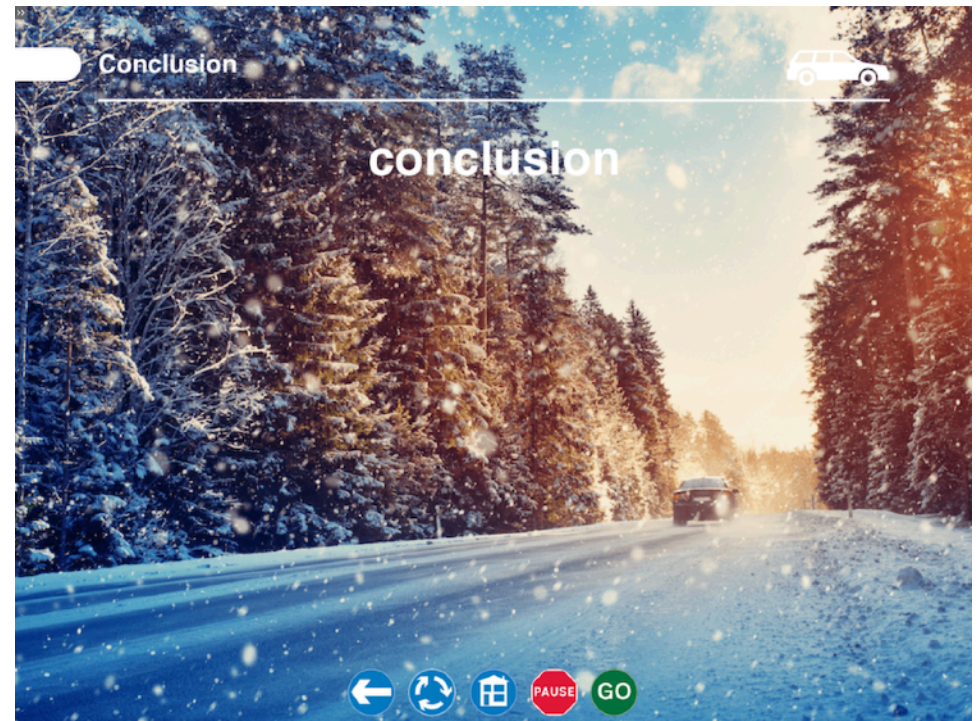
Driving to the Conditions

**fog**

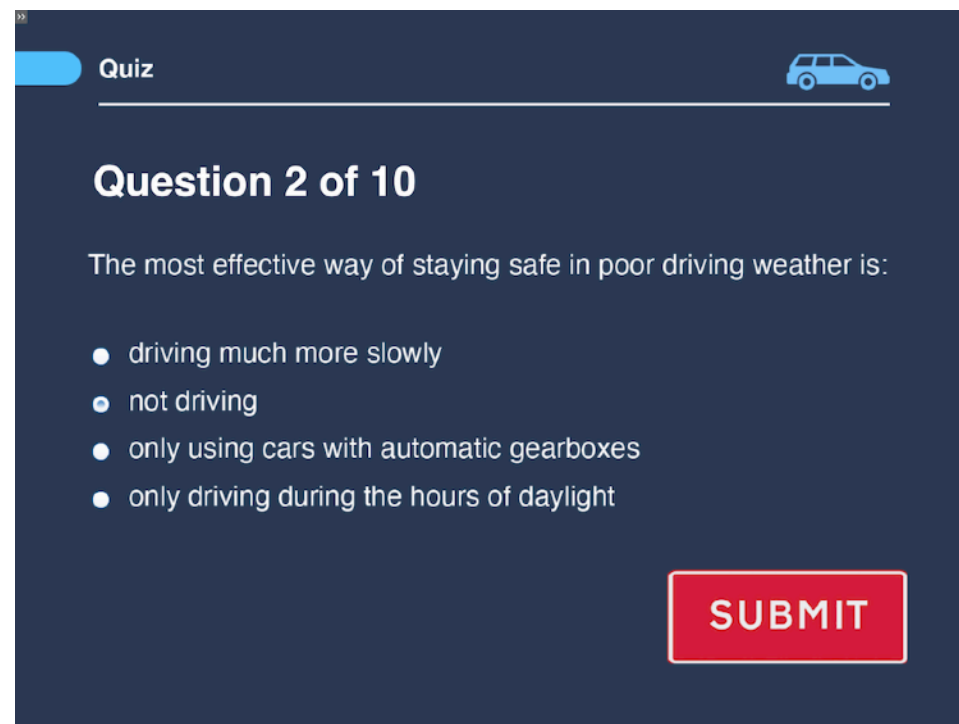
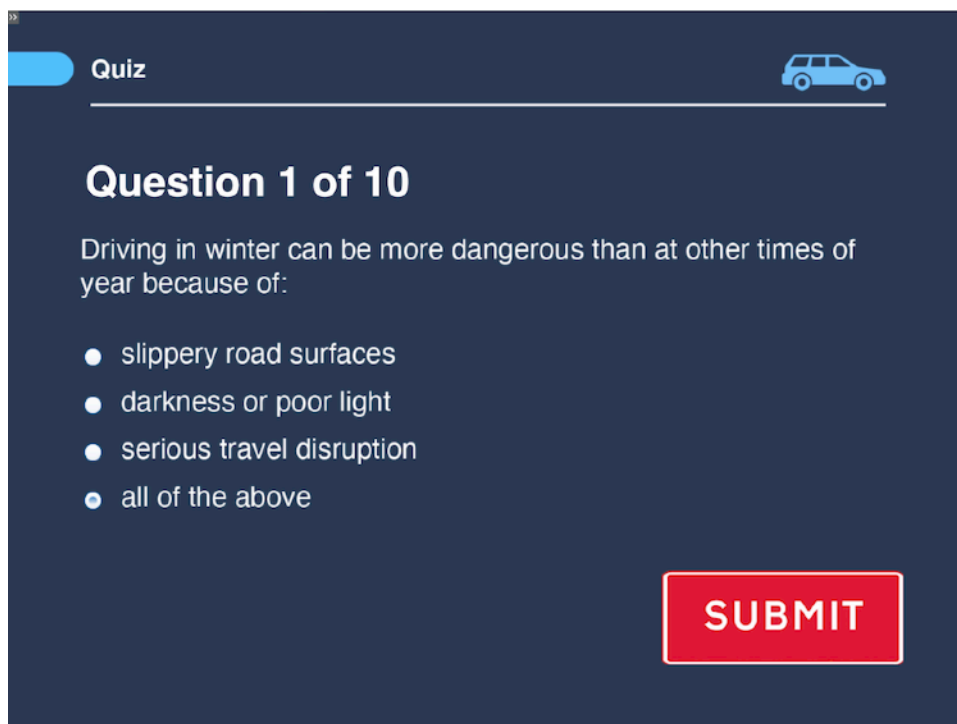
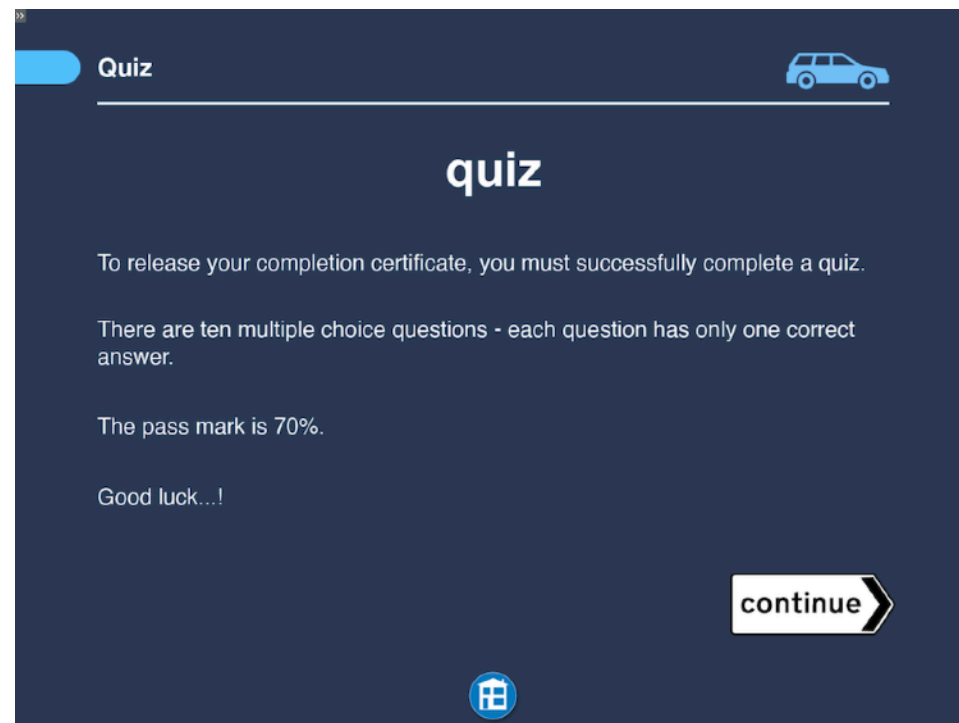
poor visibility AND slippery paste on road  
clean windows & regular windscreen washing  
tailgating  
junctions  
when to use fog lights: < 100m  
fog light symbols  
parking on road

Navigation icons: back, refresh, home, pause, go













### Question 3 of 10

The legal minimum for tyre tread depth in the U.K. is:

- 8mm
- 3.6mm
- 1.6mm
- 3mm

**SUBMIT**

### Question 4 of 10

Which of the following is NOT an example of good journey planning in winter weather?

- checking social media for travel updates
- always using the quickest route suggested by SatNav
- using main rather than minor routes
- taking heed of any weather warnings

**SUBMIT**

### Question 5 of 10

Which of the following is NOT a sensible vehicle safety check during winter months?

- checking tyres are slightly deflated, for improved traction
- making certain all windows are clear
- having more than enough fuel for any journey
- ensuring washer fluid is topped up

**SUBMIT**

### Question 6 of 10

Driving uphill can be more hazardous in slippery conditions because:

- if you have to stop you may not be able to move off again
- vehicles braking downhill may slide into your path
- rear wheel drive cars may have reduced traction
- all of the above

**SUBMIT**





## Question 7 of 10

In relation to motoring, the acronym ESP stands for:

- exhaust pollutant stabilisation
- electronic stability programme
- extra stopping power
- electric safety programme

**SUBMIT**

## Question 8 of 10

Which of the following is the best approach to deep standing water on the road?

- drive through at normal speed
- if in any doubt as to depth, do not proceed
- drive through as slowly as possible to avoid making waves
- drive through as quickly as possible

**SUBMIT**

## Question 9 of 10

Which of the following is a sensible piece of equipment to take on journeys if driving in snow conditions?

- sledge
- shovel
- ice axe
- folding chair

**SUBMIT**

## Question 10 of 10

Which of the following is a possible cause of reduced visibility in winter months?

- poor weather conditions
- dirtier windscreen and windows
- low winter sun and/or glare
- all of the above

**SUBMIT**





you scored

100%

You've passed - congratulations!

You can now download your completion certificate after exiting the course

**EXIT**

review quiz

