

Who is responsible?

Sometimes we find ourselves in social settings where a poorly considered decision can be very costly. This activity will provide different scenarios that represent examples of how things can go incredibly RIGHT or incredibly WRONG, depending on the choices that are made at the time.

Typically, choices that we make in relation to driving, being a passenger in a vehicle or coping with challenging social environments can impact greatly upon our safety. Generally the choices that we make would be considered as either being 'responsible' choices or 'irresponsible' choices.

Task outline

1. Provide each student with the scenario sheet (template below). Students are required to individually identify whether the outcome for each scenario was either a 'Responsible' decision or an 'Irresponsible' decision. This can be done by ticking/marketing the correct box.
Allow around 15 minutes for this.
2. Ask the students to work in pairs, or groups of 3-4, to discuss their choices. Ask them to discuss why they were either in agreement with each other or why they may have differed?
3. Ask them to pick out the 3 scenarios which were depicted in the RAC bstreetsmart event.
Hint: These were all 'irresponsible' scenarios. The 3 scenarios are:
 - » Scenario 2 - The driver had had a few beers but had stopped drinking an hour before driving.
 - » Scenario 6 - The passenger asked the driver to speed up as she had promised mum she would be home by midnight
 - » Scenario 10 - The passenger sitting in the back seat of the vehicle was leaning forward, distracting the driver by showing him a picture on his phone.
4. Ask them to identify and list 3 possible 'responsible' actions that could have been taken to change the 'irresponsible' outcomes identified above to be 'responsible' outcomes.
5. Get the groups to number the list from most likely (1) responsible action to the least likely (3) responsible action.

By asking them to list 'most likely' to 'least likely' it helps students to think of how they might best make a decision. This activity provides different 'responsible' strategies they could use if their first option is unable to occur. It also asks students to identify 'right' and 'wrong' in situations that might be found around social environments, examples being consuming or not consuming alcohol, taking or not taking drugs or travelling safely or unsafely in vehicles.

Extra discussion questions

These questions relate to the 'irresponsible' behaviours.

Scenario 2: Drinking earlier in the day, driving with alcohol in his system, taking other passengers knowing he has been drinking.

What should your friend, the driver, have done as a responsible action?

- Not had any alcohol at any time
- Taken a cab
- Stayed the night
- Called somebody to pick him and his friends up
- Been honest and communicated to his friend that he had been drinking and shouldn't drive

Scenario 5: Drinking alcohol, posting on Facebook when drunk, walking home alone under the influence.

What could you have done as a responsible action?

- Said NO to the Alcohol
- Encouraged your friend NOT to drink
- If you both stayed sober, there wouldn't be anything on Facebook that could be harmful later on
- Called a parent/somebody you could trust to pick you up
- Not walked home alone

Scenario 6: Getting into a vehicle with somebody you don't know well, getting into a vehicle with an inexperienced driver under the influence, encouraging the driver to speed.

What could you have done as a responsible action?

- Asked Mum or Dad to pick you up before curfew
- Not get in the vehicle with somebody who has been drinking
- Never get into a vehicle with somebody you don't know well
- Never encourage a driver to speed

Scenario 7: Taking the vehicle out with other passengers when specifically told not to, allowing his friends to be a distraction in the vehicle, passenger leaning forwards whilst not wearing a seatbelt, causing damage to his parents' vehicle.

What could you have done as a responsible action?

- Stayed strong, and not be pressured into driving your friends
- Not taken your mums car over to your friend's house
- Told your friend to sit back and stop being distracting
- Made sure each passenger was wearing a seatbelt.
- Stopped the vehicle

Scenario 10: Getting into a vehicle with a red P plater who has been drinking alcohol, not wearing a seatbelt, and distracting the driver by showing them a photo.

What should you have done as a responsible action?

- Should have called somebody else to pick you up
- Should have worn a seatbelt
- Never distract the driver
- Be a more responsible passenger

What other irresponsible actions and responsible actions can the students come up with?

Scenario Sheet

	Scenario	Responsible	Irresponsible
1	<p>You are with your older sister's friend in her car. She is taking you and your sister to a movie tonight; you're driving to pick your sister up from work on the way to the movie. You are currently sitting in the front seat, but guaranteed you will be in the back once big sis is picked up. You're making the most of it while you can. The friend's phone starts buzzing, she looks down and goes to answer it, you can see it's your sister calling, so you offer to take the phone, you speak to your sister, who advises she's running a bit late at work. You relay this message to the driver. You decide to drive to pick up the tickets at the movies first, and then head back to pick up your sister.</p>		
2	<p>Your friend has been at a party with you. You arrived about 5pm and it's now kicking 11pm. Your friend has an early morning start at Uni, and is still on Red P Plates so can't drive after midnight. Your friend is really particular about driving within the curfew as he doesn't want to be fined by the cops. When he got to the party around 5pm he had a few beers, but he stopped drinking an hour ago, around 10pm. You overheard him speaking to a girl who he was offering a ride to, he said he had been drinking coke. You all jump in the car and head towards home.</p>		
3	<p>You have plans to head down to the local beach. You are going to be walking as it's nice and close to your house. It is really hot outside. Your brother has offered to take you down to meet up with 2 friends. Of course you accept the ride. Your brother decides to meet up with a friend for a surf at the same time. You notice your friends hanging by the kiosk when you arrive. After 20 minutes you notice people you have seen around the area who go to a different school. One of the people have had an issue with one of your mates, the group start to walk over to you. Within a few quick seconds the atmosphere has changed from being fun to now people shouting at each other. You can see this situation potentially getting out of control very quickly. You see your brother and his mate coming up from the beach, you quickly explain what is happening. Your brother then defuses the situation and takes you and your friend's home.</p>		
4	<p>Your mate has just brought a brand new Holden Commodore Ute. He's been saving up for this dream car for a few years now. You love hanging out and cruising in this car as it's really cool. It has a really loud motor, being a V8, and you know it has power. When sitting at the traffic lights one night, a similar vehicle pulls up alongside your friend. The people in the other vehicle start revving their motor as a challenge to race. You and your friend look at each other. You tell your mate it's not worth it because of the potential for the vehicle to be impounded or receiving a speeding fine.</p>		

	<p>Your friend starts to rev his engine. The light goes green, the other vehicle takes off at speed however, your friend has listened to your advice and doesn't race off. He slowly moves off from the traffic lights and heads down the road, where you see the other vehicle pulled over by police on the side of the road.</p>		
5	<p>You are staying at your friend's house. You and your friend are happily hanging out listening to music and on Facebook. Your friend's parents come in and let you know they are heading out for the evening for dinner and won't be back for a few hours. Your friend jumps up and heads out of her bedroom, returning with a bottle of her mums wine. You have never had a drink before and think it's a safe enough environment to have a drink with your friend. You and your friend consume that bottle of wine, then another. You are now very intoxicated, posting pictures on Facebook of the drunken night. You then start to feel unwell. You decide, rather than staying the night at your friends, that you are going to walk home. As you are walking home intoxicated you fall and hit your head.</p>		
6	<p>You're out with friends and have lost track of time. You promised your Mum that you would be home by midnight. All your girlfriends are having heaps of fun and don't have a curfew. A person you have only met once offers you a ride. You happily accept as he has an early start in the morning and is leaving the party straight away. You ask him if he has been drinking. He replies "only a few but I stopped an hour ago have only been drinking coke". You, the driver and another friend all jump in the car. The driver is sticking to the limit, but you're panicking as Mums going to kill you if you're late. You ask him to go just a little bit faster.</p>		
7	<p>You're driving your Mum's new car. She has only had it a few weeks but has trusted you to use it. When you were on your L Plates you never had any problems driving and clocked up more than 200 hours over the supervised driving period. Mum has said you can drive the new car but there is to be no other people travelling in the vehicle with you. When you arrive at your mates place, there are couple of other people over to hang out. You stay there for a while, but then your friends want to go for a cruise. They really start to pressure you to drive. You decide to listen to your mates, and head out to get some food. Your friends in the car are distracting you, leaning forward to change the music and being really loud. You lose concentration for just a moment and hit the curb on the side of the road. This sends the vehicle out of control, hitting a tree. Luckily nobody is hurt, but the vehicle has a lot of damage.</p>		
8	<p>You have just got your Red P Plate. You are heading out with a friend to a party. Your friend is drinking alcohol. He has taken it out of his Dads fridge. You are on Red Bull and water for the night. You are all having a great time chatting and</p>		

	<p>hanging out with people you know. A group of people that you don't know show up. They have introduced themselves to you and you're all getting along really well. The group then light up a couple of joints, offering you some. Your friend decides to join in as he wants to fit in with the new crowd. After he has smoked the cannabis he begins to feel dizzy. You put him in the car and drive him home as you are sober and haven't allowed yourself to be pressured.</p>		
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9	<p>You are out socializing with some friends. It's getting late and you have to get up for a big game the following morning. You make a decision to stay with your friends for another hour before going home. The hour comes; all your friends want to stay even though they promised to leave with you an hour ago. They say they are having too much fun. A couple of your friends are really intoxicated by this time. You have had a couple of drinks, but now you're tired and getting bored. Just as you thought you had convinced your friends to walk home with you, another group of people join the party, including a guy your friend really likes. She wants to stay, but she is now getting really drunk and making a fool of herself. Unsure of what to do, you call your Dad.</p>		
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10	<p>You are at a party, and have met this great person you are having heaps of fun with. The conversation is flowing really well and you're having a good laugh together. You swap phone numbers, as you have to take off. Your mate who is driving you home is on his way out to his car. Your friend has offered another friend a ride home, so you jump in the back seat. You're all on the road, talking and listening to music. You take your seatbelt off for just a second as you want to show your friend who's driving the photo you took with your new friend.</p>		
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