



Title:

1 Every year, thousands of road users are injured, maimed for life or killed in road accidents. While it is bad enough on ordinary days, the accident rate increases during festive seasons when throngs of people pack the roads in their rush to go home. For families involved in accidents, the festive season can turn out to be a tragedy instead of a joy.

2 The causes of accidents are many, but mainly they are due to human error. Recklessness, negligence, excessive speeding, poor driving skills, breaking of traffic rules and overloading contribute to the occurrence of accidents. Go to any housing estates and one can see underage children speeding around on motorcycles. They do not wear safety helmets and sometimes there are three or four of them on a motorcycle built for two. The law is deliberately ignored and the adults are to blame for allowing these young children to risk their lives. The behavior of adults is no better. Grown up but reckless road-users are aplenty on our roads. Road courtesy is almost non-existent. Mechanical problems and road conditions can also cause accidents, for example, brake failure, tyre blowout, bad weather, potholes and traffic congestion.

3 The prevention of road accidents depends largely on the attitude of road users. They must respect the traffic laws such as keeping within speed limit, using safety helmets and belts and keeping their vehicles in roadworthy condition. They must also acquire and practice safe driving skills. There should be more awareness campaigns aimed at inculcating good driving habits. When road users ensure their vehicles are roadworthy, respect the law and think about their safety as well as that of others, then the number of fatalities can be reduced.

4 In short, a change of attitude for the better is required of road users. As long as they persist with their present bad road habits, the incidence of road accidents can only worsen.

EXERCISES:

1. Choose an appropriate title for the article. Use the title space at the beginning of this worksheet.

2. Read the statements below. Mark the statement T (true) or F (False). Justify your answer.

Most accidents occur only because of careless humans.	T	F
Adults are also responsible for road accidents.	T	F
Raising the public's awareness is an inefficient way to stop road accidents.	T	F

3. Answer the following questions based on the reading.

A. When do accidents increase? _____

B. What is happening around children and motorcycles?

C. Give at least two reasons why there are killing traffic accidents?
_____ and _____

D. What should be done to stop the carnage on the roads?

4. Complete the sentences with a statement based on the reading information.

A. According to the article, accidents rate raises

B. Apart from human errors, accidents can also occur due to

5. What do these words refer to?

A. "They" in (paragraph 1) _____

B. "They" in (paragraph2) _____

6. Find in the text words that mean the same to the following ones.

1. Calamity (paragraph 1) _____

2. Irresponsibility (paragraph 2) _____

7.

"It is almost always the cover up rather than the event that causes trouble"

Ogden Nash

Read the quote and write your interpretation about it. Use this space for your writing.