

**TASK**  
**6**

# KEEPING A SAFE DISTANCE

**Now that you know how much distance is required to stop a car, let's think about how drivers keep a safe distance from other cars.**

Have you heard of the 2-second rule?

**HOW TO APPLY THE 2-SECOND RULE**

1. Select a landmark ahead (eg sign, tree) and when the vehicle in front of you passes that landmark, start counting 1001 and 1002.
2. If you reach the landmark before you count 1002, you are too close. SLOW DOWN!



**ON YOUR NEXT TRIP...**

- Have a go at judging when your driver is travelling at a safe following distance by applying the 2-second rule. How did they go?
- Look behind you. Is the car behind travelling too close?



**ASK YOUR DRIVER TO SHARE WITH YOU...**

- How they know when to slow down or not.
- If there is anything else other than the 2-second rule you need to think about when keeping a safe distance.
- How they feel when someone is 'tailgating' them.
- How tailgating affects their driving.
- What they do if they are being tailgated.



**STOP & THINK**

- 1 Think about what you've seen while checking following distances. What will you need to consider and do when you start to drive?

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- 2 If someone was tailgating you, how do you think you would feel?

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- 3 What's the best way to deal with a tailgating car?

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- 4 The 2-second rule works well on good roads and in fine conditions. What should you do if it is wet or foggy, or you are travelling on a gravel road or freeway/highway?

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**Remember, always drive to the conditions.**



Check out the following for more information on following distances.

**Road Safety Commission**

**Following distances (0.39 sec)**

<https://www.rsc.wa.gov.au/Rules-Penalties/Browse/Following-Distances>

