

Safety margins:

1. Observation and Awareness

Always look well ahead and around you. Scan for anything that could become a danger — pedestrians, cyclists, parked cars, or junctions. Plan early, and never rely on last-second reactions. Good observation prevents accidents before they happen.

2. Speed and Distance

Keep a safe following distance. Use the **two-second rule** in dry weather, and **double it in rain** or poor conditions. Never drive too close to the vehicle in front; distance gives you time to react.

3. Weather Conditions

- **Wet roads:** Double stopping distance. Gentle braking and steering. Risk of **aquaplaning** — if steering feels light, ease off the accelerator until you regain control.
- **Ice and snow:** Ten times longer stopping distance. Drive slowly, use high gear, and make smooth movements.
- **Fog:** Use dipped headlights; fog lights only when visibility is very poor. Keep a safe gap and slow down.
- **Wind:** Give extra space to cyclists, motorcyclists, and high vehicles that can be blown off course.

4. Hills and Slopes

On **downhill roads**, use a **lower gear** to control speed with the engine instead of relying only on brakes.

When **parking on a hill**, turn the wheels toward the kerb and leave the car in gear or “Park”.

5. Vehicle Control

Avoid **skidding** by braking, steering, and accelerating smoothly. Do not steer and brake at the same time.

If the vehicle starts to skid, ease off the brake or accelerator and steer gently in the direction you want to go.

6. ABS and ESC Systems

If your car has **ABS (Anti-lock Braking System)**, press the brake firmly and keep it down until the car stops — vibration is normal.

ESC (Electronic Stability Control) helps you keep control when grip is reduced but can't overcome loss of traction — drive carefully regardless.

7. Overtaking and Cyclists

Always give cyclists plenty of room. In windy weather, give extra space as a gust can push them sideways. Never overtake near bends or junctions.

8. Fatigue and Fitness

Take a **15-minute break every two hours** on long journeys. Never drive when tired, ill, angry, or under medicine that causes drowsiness.

Stay calm and focused — emotion and tiredness reduce reaction time.

9. Coasting and Engine Braking

Do not keep the clutch down or drive in neutral downhill. This reduces your control and removes engine braking.

10. Emergency Situations

If a child or another vehicle suddenly appears, brake firmly but under control. Keep both hands on the wheel and eyes on the road.

11. General Safety

- Clear snow, ice, or dirt before driving.
- Obey road signs and temporary limits.
- Slow down near schools and traffic-calming zones.
- Drive smoothly; sharp or harsh actions cause loss of control.

Key reminder:

Safe driving depends on **awareness, anticipation, and control**.

Think ahead, stay patient, and adjust your driving to suit the road and weather every time.

