

Careless

To be careless is to lack care in the way you behave, organize your life, treat others, or do your work. Carelessness is the opposite of carefulness. Can you think of occasions when you were careless?

Examples

1

When I was a youngster I joined some pre teen friends in climbing down Sunset Crater in Arizona. The sides of the crater are made of chunky lava, some of it resembling large pieces of coal, much of it slurry and rubble, and all of the lava pieces irregular in shape, so that the descending surface was highly irregular. The group of us started climbing down at different speeds, and I made the mistake of taking the lead position. I went with the flow, the wind in my face, yelling and shouting with the others. But there came a point when the braking motion I made with my knees was no longer sufficient. Irregular chunks were causing me to slip. In a split second my body was flying out of control, and though I still tried to brake it, nothing helped and I tumbled head forward, eventually rolling over and over for at least a hundred yards, until I came to the base of the crater. I was badly bruised. I had been very careless; I should have started out more slowly and cautiously, I should not have tried to lead the pack, and I should have stopped when I felt I was getting out of control.

2

The other day I parked my car in the driveway of a local college building. It was difficult to back out, because there were cars parked on the other side of the not very wide street. Thus it was necessary to make a sharp reverse into the street, while paying due attention to the cars parked there. In making my reverse turn the side of my car lightly grazed the passenger side of one of the parked cars on the other side of the street. I got out at once to check, and for a minute thought I saw nothing on the side of the other car. But I think I was trying to see nothing. On a second look I discovered a faint hairline thin mark across the side of the car that was parked behind me. I had been careless, not *very* careless, but careless enough. And that is enough.