

Cautious

To be cautious means to give thought in advance, to what you are about to do. Look both ways before crossing the street. Watch out who's behind you on a city street at night. When you feel a cold coming wrap up. Are you naturally cautious? Is being cautious the opposite of being adventurous?

Examples

1

I am unable to pass a vehicle in front of me, because of my fear of cutting out into the open where some unseen vehicle may run into me, or where I may lose control and run off the road at the opposite side. Therefore I never pass the vehicle in front of me, when I am driving. Because of this cautiousness I often find myself—and my angry passenger—sitting behind trucks and delivery vehicles. I create unexpected hazards around me, driving too slowly to keep up the traffic flow. I am so cautious I put myself in danger. Being too cautious can mean running an unnecessary risk. Is it good to be cautious?

2

There is a fine line, in writing, between throwing caution to the winds, daring every metaphor, and playing it close to the chest, weighing every syllable. Great writers are often able to walk that line with aplomb, keeping you on your toes, but maintaining your confidence. When Hart Crane refers to the sunrise as a 'great wink of eternity,' he blazes into an upper atmosphere of language, while speaking to a basic human awareness. The way James Joyce destroys all syntax in *Finnegans Wake* assures us that he has a firm hand on the rudder from start to finish.