

CLASSLESS LANDIES

Fill in the missing words below from this selection:

Saharan hers dune Defender neutral classless
experience brigade winching builder Darien
Queen Aston Martin jungles game viewers hay

I don't know if there is a vehicle that is more classless than the **Defender**. From carrying a bundle of hay to plying the high street. The military used them for decades. Utility companies, the fire **brigade**, forestry, expeditions, **game viewers**, offroad racing... Even the **Queen** of England loved **hers**!

Arguably not much more advanced than a horse-drawn cart, with a driving **experience** akin to a Massey Ferguson - but refreshingly '**classless**' with an undeniable charm and presence you can't quite put your finger on.

You're never sure whether the owner is a local builder, or if they own the chateau itself - including half of the hillside. Is it parked up next to the **Aston Martin**? Or is it nipping down to the lumber yard for a load of roof tiles?

Every time you undertake a journey you are, secretly, **winching** across the **Darien** Gap, hacking a pathway through the thick **jungles** of Borneo, or conquering the forty-eighth **dune** in the dusty **Saharan** heat. Easily possible, of course, should you wish to attempt them...

THE UNIQUENESS OF LANDIES

longer paint expedition hoop alloy wheels cossetting trucks
utilitarian fields capability Pyrenean high street aftermarket
city Defender vehicle rural alfresco depth

As you already know, no two **trucks** look alike! The **aftermarket** options are a list **longer** than the one at Rolls Royce, and you can even get your **Defender** to look as sumptuous. Just don't expect the ride to be as **cossetting**.

Throw on some bigger **wheels** and tyres to tackle the **Pyrenean** slopes, a set of lights for those **rural** lanes or a winch and bullbar for your **expedition** needs. Take to the **high street** with a full-leather bling interior, custom **paint** and a nice set of (scratch-at-your-peril) **alloy** wheels. Or take the roof off and travel **alfresco** with a flapping canvas attached to a flimsy little roll **hoop**, sleep in it, drag a 3.5-ton trailer to wherever you need to.

Sure, it is still a **utilitarian** vehicle, but in the broadest sense of the word. From tackling muddy **fields** on the farm to jumping a **city** kerb, and everything in between, no other **vehicle** has as much appeal, **depth** of history and **capability**. That's why we love 'em!

SERIES & DEFENDER

Fill in the gaps using these words below:

2.25 Mid Grey the Tdi petrol BMW M52 2.8i deleted flaps
NAS 440 000 bonnet bulge pink panther headlights engine diesel
bus Euro III plastic grille 1966 Isuzu 4BD1 2.5NA 24volt

- 1 The 500 000th Land Rover was produced in **1966**
- 2 Alpine White was the launch colour for **NAS** spec Defenders in 1993
- 3 **Bonnet bulge** and **deleted flaps** are the main Puma exterior features
- 4 **Mid Grey** is the colour of the Defender Works Islay Edition
- 5 12-seater Defenders qualified as a **bus** for tax exemption
- 6 Lightweight vehicles were powered by **2.25 diesel** and **petrol**
- 7 Australian Defenders were powered by the **Isuzu 4BD1** engine
- 8 Land Rover South Africa fitted a **BMW M52 2.8i** to the Defender
- 9 The Td5 was developed because **the Tdi** couldn't meet **Euro III** emissions
- 10 Series III differences to SIIa were a **plastic grille** and **headlights** in the front wings
- 11 The 109 LRDPV were commonly known as **Pink Panther**
- 12 The military stuck to **2.5NA** because of **24 volt** capability
- 13 **440 000** Series IIIs were built

DIGGIN' IT WITH VIC

Fill in the missing words below from this selection:

John Deere ploughing agricultural dream rattling a chicken
highway-certified Lamborghini tractor comfort expedition
statement smile-inducing

Large **John Deere** tractors sporting impossibly complicated **ploughing** accessories are impressive enough, but the simple, little **agricultural** machines getting on with their daily routine are the ones that top Vic's list of **dream** drives.

She would probably already be popping down to the local in an old, smoky, **rattling** diesel if they were **highway-certified**. An affinity for the exotics, you might say, I mean **Lamborghini** started as a **tractor** manufacturer, right?

Similarly, if a tractor is the farmer's wingman then a Land Rover is arguably the slightly more civilised version, with a bit more **comfort** (though not by much). Equally, you may find months-old mud on the windows, **a chicken** in the footwell and three bales of hay in the back. And that's why Vic loves her Landy.

It's simultaneously several things - a simple, agricultural tool, an **expedition** lifeline, a militarily capable machine, a basic **statement** of intent, and a **smile-inducing** commute to work!

THE LURE OF OFF-ROAD COMPETITION

spotlights jungle lost neck water wings muddy back remote
branches windscreen disappeared alone diffs leaves soggy

Why would drag your little Land Rover through a **jungle**?
What is the appeal of freezing nights, tiring, **muddy** days,
broken **diffs** and waist-deep water? Let's set the scene.

The forest is eerily silent, only the persistent **water** drops from
the **leaves** overhead. You're completely **alone**, which can
only mean one thing - you're **lost**.

You survey the car. The front **wings** are damaged, the
spotlights broken and the rear winch rope **disappeared** two
days ago. You're not sure whether the front diff is still locking
and three **branches** are sticking out of the roll cage.

A huddle around the **soggy** paper that holds the clues to get
out of this remote, forgotten forest. Helmet sweat makes its
way down the **back** of your **neck**. Your boots are soaked
through, the mist hangs eerily, and you drag a hand across
the **windscreen** to clear some mud away... (continues)

OFF-TRACK AND EXHAUSTED

victories top Landy hammering tomorrow progress slick
grind Torchlights sky battle boots motor grip reposition

The winch **motor** strains and you're pressed into your seat, facing the grey **sky**, a bit of throttle and the heavily treaded tyres alternately **grip** and slide, grip and slide. Progress is painfully slow, you stop and **reposition** the winch strap.

The **Landy** is hanging on the cable and it has now become a **grind** to the top. The **slick** mud is overwhelming, each metre is hard-fought, a **battle** with the elements, a battle with yourself. Small **victories**, crushing defeats.

Camaraderie around the fire, **hammering**, grinding, repairs to be made, steaming muddy **boots** drying in the firelight. **Torchlights** check the truck, a tap on the headlight, which comes on finally.

We're ready for battle **tomorrow**. Grab a couple of hours of exhausted sleep in the clammy sleeping bag, dreaming of a shower. Nothing quite like it!