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### To Build a Fire

In the story, "To Build a Fire" by Jack London a man sets out alone in the harsh Yukon Territory weather, and makes several fatal mistakes that undoubtedly lead to his downfall. These mistakes, which could have easily been avoided, were due to the man's poor judgment and stubbornness. He made many careless errors in preparation for his trek and during his journey through the Yukon. All in All the man sealed his own fate by simply being ignorant.

His first mistake was going out alone under 50 below. The man had been warned that it was unwise to travel the Yukon alone in the harsh winter weather but he ignored this potentially life saving advice and continued on by himself. If he had brought a partner along with him he may have survived. When he broke through the ice patch into the sinkhole had he had a partner, his partner could have built him a fire to keep him from freezing. However, he disregarded these warnings and voyaged deeper into his own death trap.

Another thing the man did wrong was removing his gloves and outerwear repeatedly. When the dog got ice in his paws the man took off his gloves to scrape out the

ice. Little did he know that the moment he exposed his fingers to the cold air he began freezing them. He should have made something to cover his mouth and cheeks too. The harsh, cold wind stung his cheeks and started freezing them along with his mouth and long amber beard of frozen chewing tobacco. Obviously if he had been more prepared he may have been able to survive.

The most fatal mistake the man made was building the fire under a tree full of snow. If the snow hadn't fallen on the fire he would have been able to stay warm, dry off, and continue on his journey. Instead he chose to build his lifeline under a tree and proceeded to smother all hope of getting out of the Yukon alive, with snow. Had he chose a different location to build his fire the man could have regained his strength and endure the rest of his Trek through the Yukon.