



You are driving on a two lane road. The photograph here shows the view from the driver's seat, and as you can see, the oncoming lane is heavily congested. There are cars parked in front of the convenience store on the left side of the road, which means you will have to drive closer to the center line.



Your Position



Weather



Time of Day

You are driving down a road with heavy traffic in the oncoming lane.

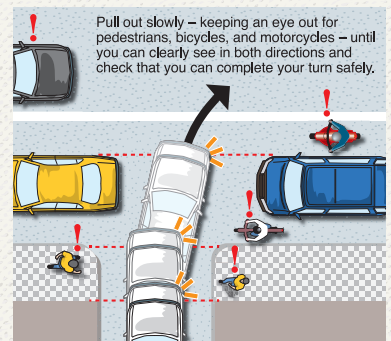
What should you be looking at right now?

ANSWER

You should be watching for gaps between the cars in the oncoming lane.

Another car came out of the gap in the oncoming lane, and you almost collided into it. The other driver was at fault for coming into traffic without checking first, but if you look closely at the original photograph, you will see a large gap between two of the oncoming cars. That is an important hint that allows you to predict that there may be a parking lot or side road at

that point, from which a vehicle may be turning into your lane. When people give way for other vehicles, drivers coming into traffic tend to be careless and enter too quickly. This increases the risk of an accident occurring.



Crossing a congested lane safely

When crossing a lane congested with heavy traffic, even when other vehicles give way, it is important not to rush out. Drivers must take care not to hit pedestrians on the sidewalks, bicycles on the shoulders, and of course, they must avoid other cars or motorcycles. Pull out slowly until you can clearly see in both directions before completing your manoeuver. (See illustration.)

Diagram by Hideaki Kinjoh
Photography by Norihiro Ochiai

