



You are driving along a road that runs through a residential area. The photograph shows the view from the driver's seat as you follow another vehicle down the two-lane road. You are about to pass a number of vehicles coming from the opposite direction.



Your Position



Weather



Time of Day

You are driving through a residential area.

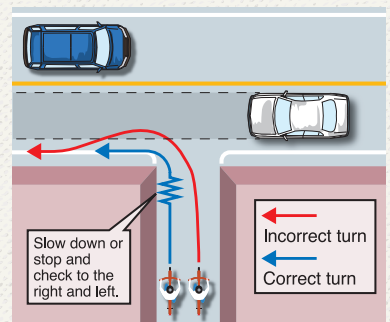
What should you be looking at right now?

ANSWER

You should be looking at the attention sign and at the blind corner mirror.

A cyclist suddenly appeared from the road on the left. The cyclist was at fault as he didn't check to see if he could safely merge with traffic first, but cyclists and children often suddenly move into the road in residential areas, so this sort of accident isn't uncommon. Places that are particularly problematic have "tobidashi" warning signs in place, and those signs

let you know that the area is more dangerous. If you had looked carefully, you would have seen a small image of the cyclist in the mirror set up on the corner and been able to predict that the cyclist might come flying out into the road. In situations like this it is important to reduce speed and be ready to apply the brakes quickly as you approach a side street.



Warning to Cyclists

When riding a bicycle and approaching an intersection where visibility is poor, cyclists must slow down or stop even when no stop sign is posted. People tend to keep riding at speed when turning left because they are not crossing the road itself, but doing so increases the danger of understeering and moving into the path of traffic. (See diagram.)

Diagram by Hideaki Kinjoh
Photography by Norihiro Ochiai

