



You are driving on an expressway that runs through downtown Tokyo. The photograph has been taken from the driver's seat, and shows that you are currently driving downhill and approaching a fork in the road. You checked the sign and confirmed that you want to continue driving in the left lane.



## You are on the expressway in Tokyo.

What should you be looking at right now?

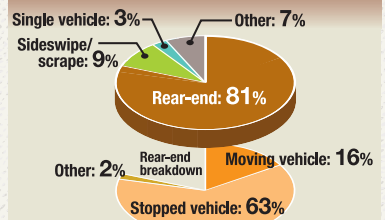
### ANSWER

You should be watching the car ahead of you on your right.

The car on your right suddenly changed lanes. The fault lies with the driver who changed lanes in a dangerous manner, but sudden lane changes before forks in the road are not uncommon. You could see that the lane lines turned yellow shortly ahead, and in places like that where drivers will soon be no longer able to switch between lanes, drivers tend to

make last-minute, reckless lane changes. If you see a car braking before a fork, it's possible that the driver is unsure of which lane they should be in, and they may be about to change lanes. Always keep an eye out for such vehicles.

Accident ratio on urban expressways (2014)  
\*Data covers accidents on Shuto and Hanshin expressways.



Source: ITARDA

### Common urban expressway accidents

The pie graph above was made using data collected on the Shuto and Hanshin expressways, and on both, rear-end collisions made up the largest proportion of accidents. The main causes of such accidents are sudden lane changes, speeding, and following too closely. Drivers should be careful when approaching blind curves, as there may be stalled traffic around the bend.

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