



You are driving in a shopping area in which there are many pedestrians. There is a supermarket to the left with several bicycles parked in front. You pay careful attention to the space on your left since you are thinking about passing the young children and the man walking along the road.



Your Position



Weather



Time of Day

Driving through a Shopping Area with Many Pedestrians.

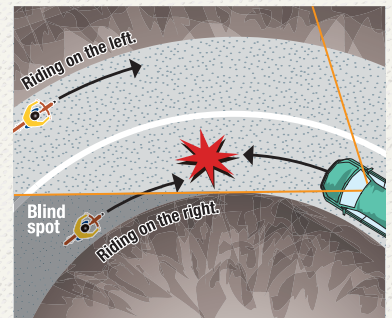
What should you be looking at right now?

ANSWER

You should be watching the bicycle coming down the road ahead of you.

A cyclist pops out in front of you. Although riding a bicycle against traffic is a violation and riding so far into the road is dangerous, it is still a common occurrence. The cyclist was just barely visible behind the man on the left in the original photograph, but that was when you should have dropped your speed and

paid close attention to what the cyclist was doing. On top of that, the two schoolchildren directly in front of you could jump out in front of the car at any time as they play, or they might even suddenly try to cross the street in front of you. It is important to drive slowly and leave plenty of space to the left.



The Dangers of Riding against Traffic on a Bicycle

Riding a bicycle against traffic may allow you to face oncoming traffic and be immediately aware of approaching danger, but the possibility of evasion is much lower. In particular, when you are in the blind spot of a curve, you won't realize you're in trouble until it's too late. Remember to always ride a bicycle with traffic. (See illustration.)

● Read a variety of commentary by Nagayama about risk prediction online. (Japanese only)

Diagram by Hideaki Kinjoh
Photography by Norihiro Ochiai

