



You enjoy taking drives with the family on your days off. This photograph shows the view from the driver's seat as you are driving down this mountain road. You are about to pass an oncoming car and are just before a corner. You are following the car in front of you, and about to slow down to enter the curve.



Your Position



Weather



Time

You're driving downhill on a mountain road.

What should you be looking at right now?

ANSWER

You should be looking at the road warning signs and the gear indicator.

In our scenario, you have applied the brakes, but you don't lose enough speed before entering the curve and you drift towards the outside. Brakes can become less effective when overused on downhill roads, so it is important to use engine braking. This is actually written on the warning sign in the photo above. If the

dashboard shows that the car is in drive (D), the brakes might not be working as well as they could. When driving downhill, automatic transmission vehicles should use engine braking by dropping the engine into either second gear or L, and this change will be shown on the dashboard indicators.



Take care when driving downhill

Putting a number of people or lots of luggage in a car makes it heavier, which increases the strain on the brakes. If you ever have brake problems, you can avoid an accident by detouring into an available emergency area (above photo). If there are no emergency areas available, apply the parking brake and drive with the side of the vehicle rubbing against using the guard rails to slow down gradually.

