



You are walking down a residential street. The photo shows your perspective as you approach the intersection, and you are about to turn left and cross the road at the crosswalk. There is a car in front of you about to turn right onto the road you are crossing.



You are about to cross an intersection in a residential area.

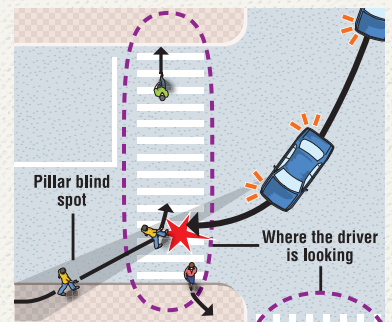
What should you be looking at right now?

ANSWER

You should be watching the car turning right onto this road.

The turning car failed to stop and you were almost hit. If you look closely at the first photograph, you will notice that the window pillar was blocking the driver's view, meaning that you were caught in his blind spot where he couldn't see you. (See picture in inset.) Drivers turning

right tend to focus so much on oncoming cars and motorcycles that they end up striking pedestrians or cyclists after they turn. When crossing an intersection, always keep an eye any turning cars.



Diagonal Crossing is Dangerous

It's common for pedestrians to take a shortcut across the road before an intersection by walking diagonally on the road until they hit the crosswalk. However, this is very dangerous, as drivers turning may not notice someone is on the road in enough time to avoid an accident as the pedestrian could be in the forward blind spot behind the pillar. (See diagram above.)

● Read Nagayama's risk prediction commentary online. (Japanese only)

Diagram by Hideaki Kinjoh  
Photography by Norihiro Ochiai