



You are driving down the highway in a city. The photograph here is taken from the driver's seat, and shows your vehicle approaching a sharp curve to the right that runs alongside a parking area. You drop your speed and follow the minivan in front of you into the curve.



Your Position



Weather



Time of Day

You are approaching a curve on a city highway.

What should you be looking at right now?

ANSWER

You should be watching the van in front of you and keeping an eye out for merging vehicles.



The minivan in front slammed on its brakes to avoid a merging vehicle, and you narrowly avoided a collision. The visibility on the curve was poor, but because you knew there was a parking area on the left, you should have kept in mind the possibility of

other vehicles merging with your lane. The sign on the side of the road also warns of the upcoming merging lane, and when approaching such a curve, drivers must keep that in mind. Keep sufficient distance between your car and the car in front, and travel at a speed that will allow you to stop in time when traveling on a curve with poor visibility.



The Dangers of City Highways

Unlike a normal highway, highways in urban areas have many more curves with shorter lines of sight, and more entrances, exits, forks and other merger points. On top of that, while merging lanes normally come on the left on highways, urban highways even have merger lanes that come from the right. Pay attention to warning signs, and keep your speed down.

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

Photography by Norihiro Ochiai