



You are driving on a two-lane road.

The photograph here shows the view from the driver's seat, and a minivan can be seen in front of you to the right.

You are aiming to go through the intersection in front of you, and can see two cars turning from the opposite lanes across traffic.



Your Position



Weather



Time of Day

You are about to go straight through an intersection.

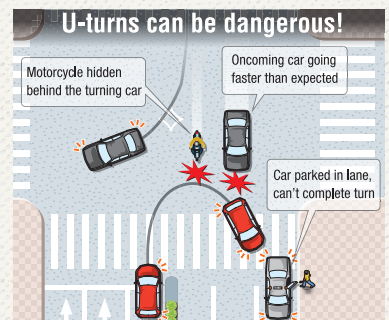
What should you be looking at right now?

ANSWER

You should be watching what the second car turning is going to do next.

The second car in the opposite turning lane actually did a U-turn, but the turning radius of their car was too big and they had to stop right in front of you. If you look at the first photo, it looks like the car is trying to turn to their right. But if you just assume that is true and don't slow down, there is a danger of getting into a collision. Look at the wheels of the second car and you will notice that the angle they make

with the car is a lot bigger than it would be if it was simply turning right. Cars doing a U-turn tend to move slower too, so you can use that information to predict that a U-turn might be coming. You have to be careful even when a car is simply turning right. If there had been pedestrians or cyclists crossing the street, the car may suddenly stop in your lane.



Make U-turns with care

Intersections that allow U-turns are very convenient - especially when you miss the road you are looking for. However, drivers must think and drive more carefully when making a U-turn. You could misjudge the speed of on-coming cars, or be unable to complete your turn because of another car stopped on the side of the opposite lanes. If you're going to make a U-turn, make sure you do it carefully. (See diagram.)

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

Diagram by Hideaki Kinjoh
Photography by Norihiro Ochiai

