



You're driving down a two-lane road that runs through a residential area. The photograph here is taken from the driver's seat, and shows the vehicle approaching an intersection with a traffic light. As the car in the opposite lane is stopped, a taxi is blocked from passing. You have just passed another car, and are slowing down. It looks like the car in the opposite lane is about to turn right.



Your Position



Weather



Time

You are giving way to an oncoming car.

What should you be looking at right now?

ANSWER

You should be looking at the car behind you in your rear-view mirror.

When you decelerated to give way to the car turning right from the opposite lane, the car behind you tried to pass and came too close, almost rear-ending your vehicle. If you look at the first photograph, you can see the car behind you was already quite close. Slowing down, and stopping, when the light is green can only

be seen as abnormal to someone else, and doing so can cause confusion. When you want to give way to an oncoming car, avoid getting rear-ended by checking your rear-view mirror first, then, if the car behind you is too close, simply continue through the light without giving way.

Human factors in rear-end collisions (2012)

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|----------|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | Insufficient observation of conditions: (Assumed) no danger existed | 52,080 incidents |
| 2 | Not paying attention to the road (internal factors): (Not including dozing off, talking, etc.) | 36,025 incidents |
| 3 | Not paying attention to the road (external factors): (Not including watching other cars or the scenery) | 24,433 incidents |
| 4 | Not paying attention to the road (external factors): (Admiring the scenery) | 21,343 incidents |
| 5 | Mechanical Issues: (Brake failure) | 16,076 incidents |

Source: Institute for Traffic Accident Research and Data Analysis



Message for the following car

The most common traffic accidents are rear-end collisions, and with 52,080 incidents the largest cause of those collisions has been determined to be "insufficient observation of conditions," i.e. mistakes in judgement in which the following driver thinks there is no danger of collision (see table). In this particular case, it is important to keep a close eye on the road in order to predict when the car in front is decelerating to give way to oncoming traffic.

