



You are driving down a major road with a lot of traffic. The photo was taken from the driver's seat, and shows the vehicle approaching an intersection where you want to turn left. You look at the door mirror on the left, and decide to make your turn.



Your Position



Weather



Time of Day

You are checking your mirrors before turning left.

Q. What should you be looking at right now?

RISK PREDICTION → **Answer**

You should have noticed the makikomi warning sign and continued watching the door mirror.



Just as you were about to turn left, a scooter passed you on the left and you almost struck the vehicle with your own. It seems that the scooter was hidden in your blind spot. Right before the intersection is a sign that reads "makikomi chui", a warning to drivers to watch out for motorcycles and bicycles coming up from the left where they could be knocked

down and run over. Also, you should have noticed that the blind spot warning light on the far left-hand side of the mirror (See zoomed photograph on the left). Drivers should always check their blind spots on their own, but some cars in recent years have been produced with supplementary blind spot detection (BSD) safety systems.

Always check your blind spots!

Even when a car is equipped with a BSD system, the location and size of a vehicle in the blind spot could result in the system not detecting something there. So, when you are turning left or making a lane change, you should always turn your head and check your blind spot (see illustration above). Also, when making a left-hand turn, you should move your vehicle over to the left beforehand to ensure that bicycles and motorcycles have no room to slip through the space.

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

Chart by Hideaki Kinjoh
Photography by Norihiro Ochiai

