



It started raining earlier in the evening, and now you are on your way to pick up a family member at the train station.

The photo shows the view from the driver's seat, with the station on the left, cars parked on either side of the road (perhaps waiting for someone like you), and pedestrians all around. You see a spot open on the left, so decide to park there to wait.



Your Position



Weather



Time of Day

You are picking someone up at the station on a rainy evening.

What should you be looking at right now?

ANSWER

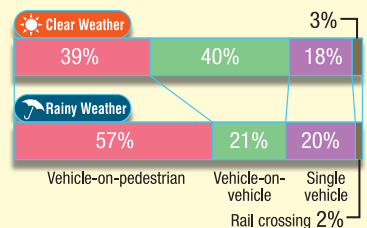
You should be watching the person standing between the cars.

Someone suddenly ran out from between the cars and you almost got in an accident. Drivers must look for people between cars like we see in the first photograph, and be prepared for the possibility that one of them tries to cross the road. This is especially true if it has just started to rain. Some people won't have an um-

brella, and in their rush to get in the car and out of the rain, they may not pay enough attention to traffic as they cross. Visibility drops when it is raining at night, making it harder to see pedestrians, so when driving near stations or in shopping areas where people might cross the road, drop your speed and drive carefully.



Vehicle-on-pedestrian accidents increase when it rains!



Source: Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department Statistics, fatal traffic accident ratios 2013-2015

The Dangers of Rainy Roads

When it rains, water droplets form on the windows and obstruct the view of the driver, but pedestrians also tend to keep their heads down as they walk, dropping their line of sight. Neither drivers nor pedestrians are doing as much as they can to ensure everyone remains safe. Take care, because vehicle-on-pedestrian accidents increase when it is raining. (See graph.)

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

Diagram by Hideaki Kinjoh
Photography by Norihiro Ochiai