

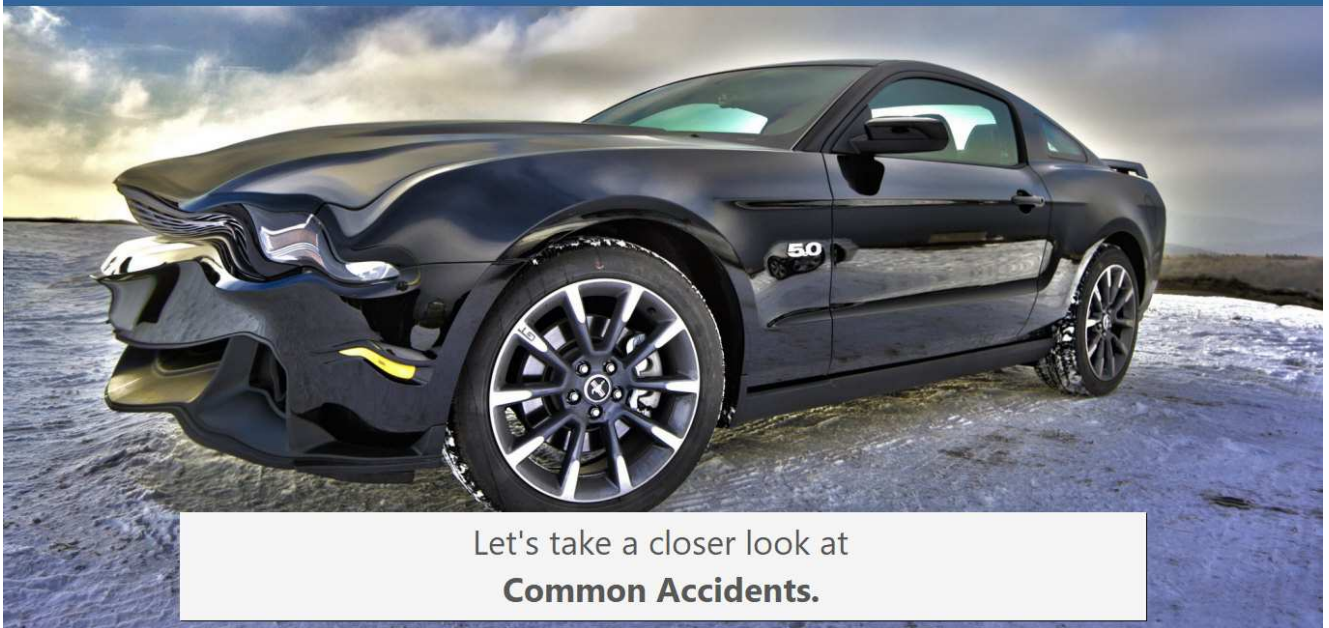
Common Accidents

Common Accidents

Welcome to this **Perfect Driver** course. Throughout this course, we are going to look at the law, skills, techniques, and ideas to help you become a better, and safer driver.

In this lesson, we'll look at **Common Accidents**.

Common Accidents



Let's take a closer look at
Common Accidents.

Common Accidents

In this lesson, we'll look at common sorts of car accidents - how they occur, and how to avoid them.



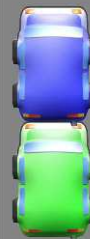
Common Accidents

Rear End Collision. This animation illustrates probably the most common form of car accident - the rear end collision.

This accident occurs for a combination of two main reasons - not paying attention to the road, and not following a safe distance behind the car in front.

Ensure you have at least three seconds between you and the car in front.

In almost all circumstances, the blame for this accident is placed with the driver at the rear.



Common Accidents

When following a car in traffic, keep an eye on the brake lights of the car ahead. You'll notice these turning red before you notice the car in front slowing down. Apply **your** brakes accordingly.



Common Accidents

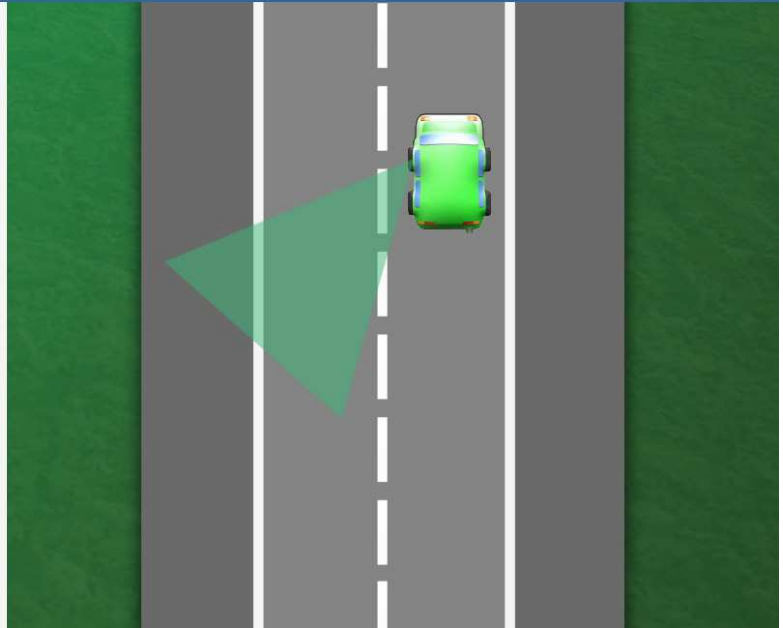


Common Accidents

Lane Drifting. In this example, the green car drifts into the blue car's lane. It may be just a lack of concentration or distraction, or they could be changing lanes.

The blue car is sitting very close to the **blind spot** (indicated by the green triangle. An area that is difficult for a driver to see into) on the green car, which is not a safe place to drive. The blue car should either move forwards, or backwards a little so they can be seen.

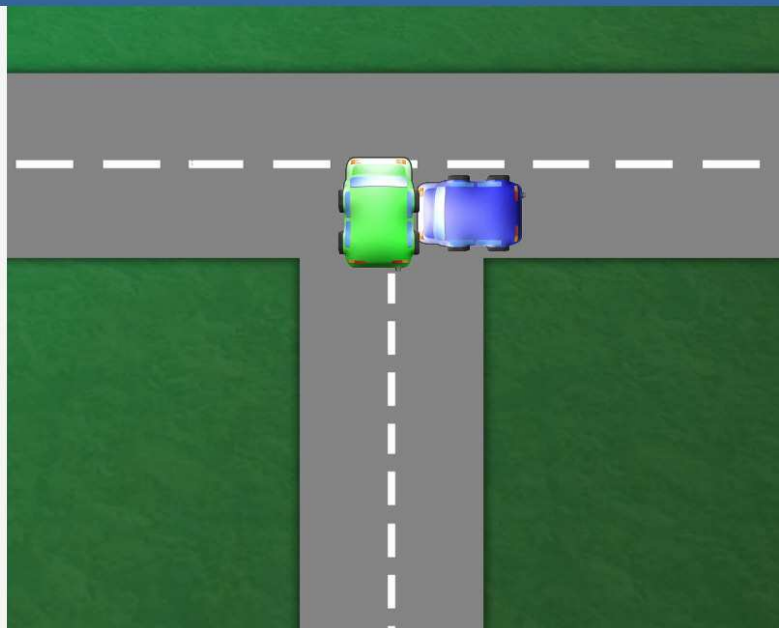
If you are unable to move out of the way of a drifting car, use your horn to get the driver's attention.



Common Accidents

T-Intersection. Here, the green car turns right at a T-intersection without slowing or checking both lanes of traffic, and turns in front of the blue car. They need to slow down, and look, before entering the intersection.

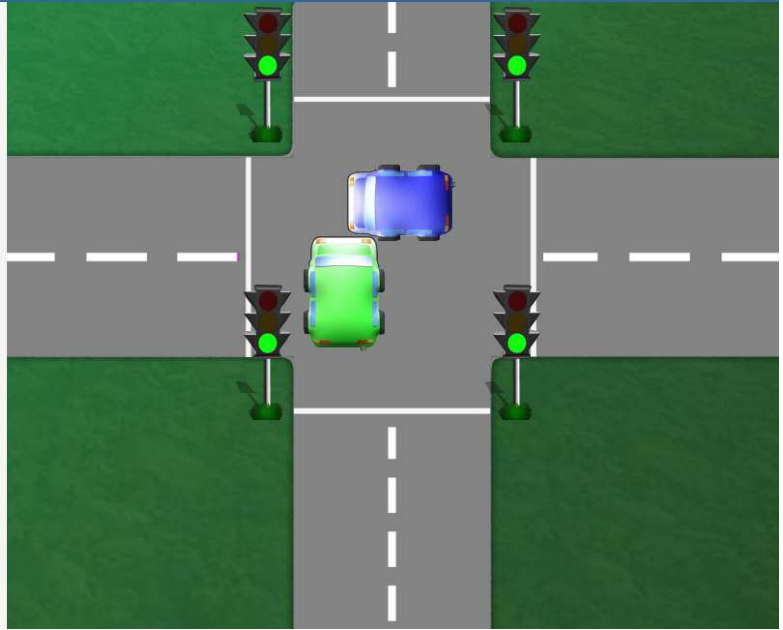
The driver of the blue car should always scan the road ahead, and see the green car wanting to turn. They may note that the green car has not slowed down, or has not looked - and so they may be able to slow down and prevent a collision.



Common Accidents

Running a Red Light. Here, the green car has a green light and the right of way. The blue car, however, has gone straight through what would be a red light on their side.

The driver of the blue car is of course breaking the law - but as the green car enters the intersection - even with a green light - the driver needs to look both ways and be aware that people do run red lights from time to time.

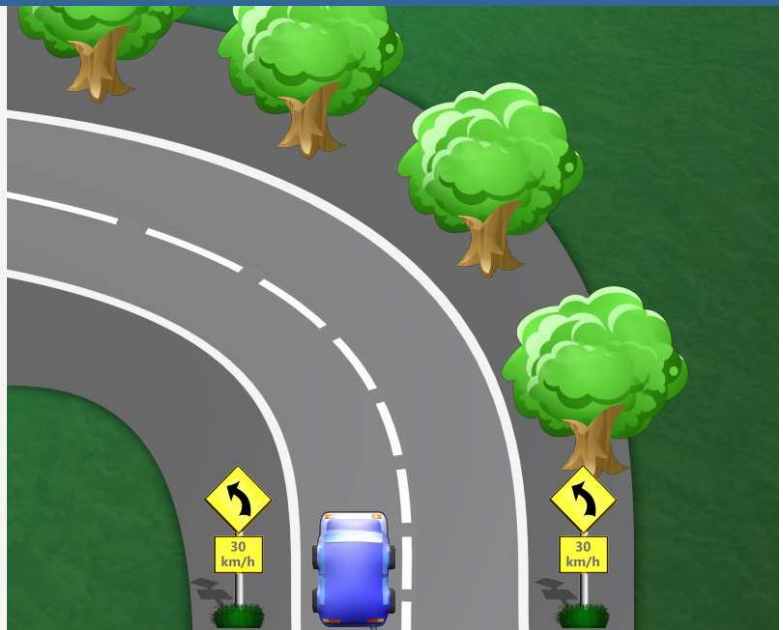


Common Accidents

Too Fast on a Curve. Try to take a curve in the road at too high a speed, and you'll end up sliding right off the road itself.

Always obey the suggested speed limits - and travel even more slowly in poor conditions, poor weather, or on an unfamiliar road.

This car ignored the suggested speed for this turn.

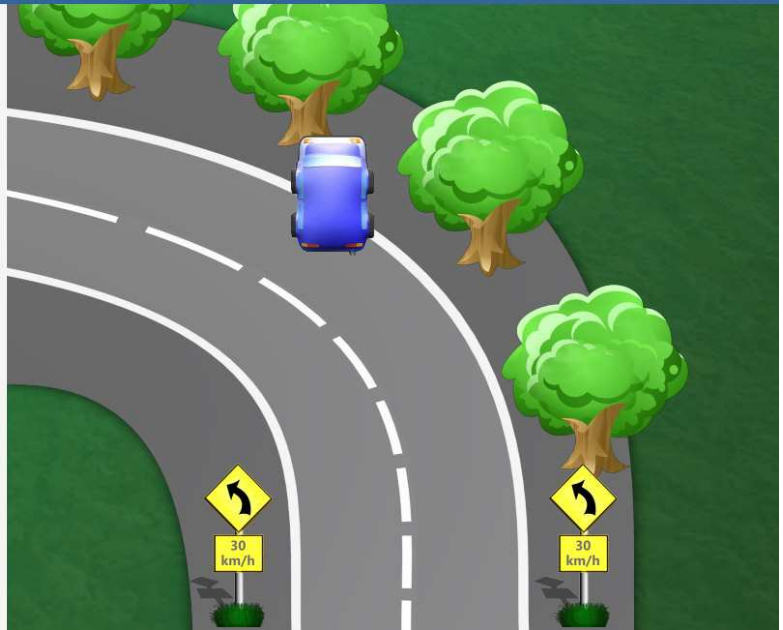


Common Accidents

Missing a Turn Completely. If your attention wanders for a just a second or so, or you are driving during terrible driving conditions, or distracted somehow – you may miss a turn altogether. Especially if you are driving on an unfamiliar road.

Solutions are simple:

- Always pay attention to road signs.
- Slow down in poor conditions.
- Slow down at night.
- Drive a little slower and more carefully if an unfamiliar road.

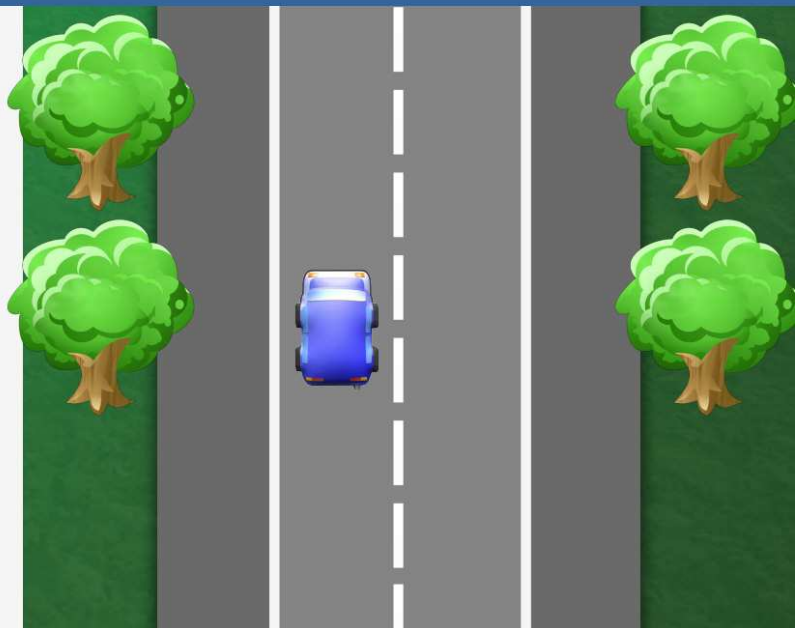


Common Accidents

Single Car Accidents. Here, the blue car drifts off the road sharply and runs into a tree.

This sort of accident can be caused by distractions, and more often than not, fatigue. Speeding, road obstacles, and poor weather can also play a factor.

Check the lessons on **Distractions**, **Fatigue**, and **Speeding** for more tips.



Common Accidents

Common Accidents

Animals. Animals on Australian roads are always a danger. In outback areas, kangaroos, wombats and koalas are prevalent.

In rural areas, you'll get horses, cows, kangaroos and sheep on the road potentially at any time.

Keep an eye out for warning signs that may highlight animals in the area. Always scan the road ahead for danger. If driving at night, keep a look out on the side of the road for reflections in animal eyes.

Dusk and dawn are the most dangerous times for animals on the road.



Common Accidents



Common Accidents



Common Accidents



Common Accidents

Watch Your Doors. When parked on the side of the road, like these red cars, you must be very careful opening doors that face the traffic.

An unexpected door opening onto the road could cause an accident, or have serious repercussions for a cyclist, who may be riding close to the parked cars.

If you open a door and it causes an accident, it is likely to be your fault, so please take a good look before opening doors in this situation.



Common Accidents

Watch Your Doors After Parking. In shopping centres and parking stations, you don't always get a lot of room to park. Cars end up very close to each other, and you generally cannot open a door fully without hitting the car next to you.

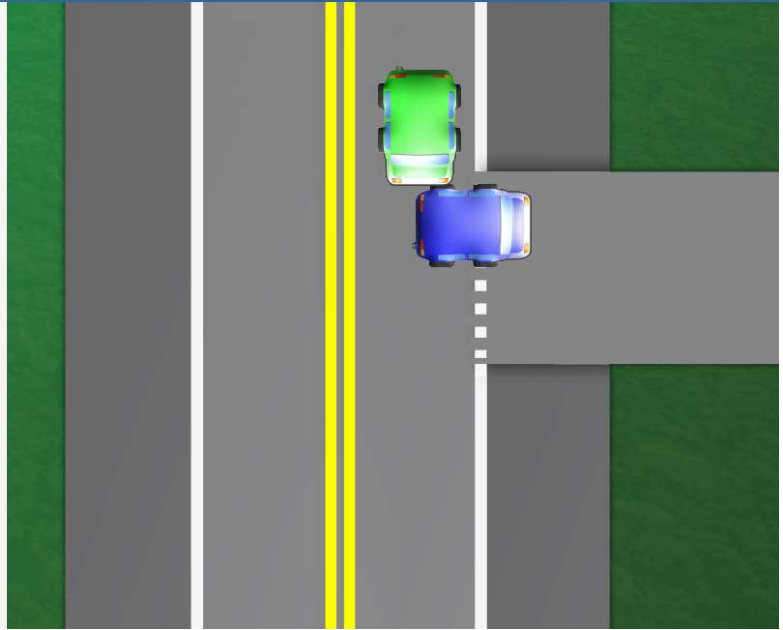
So, be careful. Open the door as little as you need to to get out.



Common Accidents

Reversing onto a Road. Here, the blue car has reversed from a driveway directly onto a road without adequately checking if it was safe. Very illegal and dangerous.

The driver of the green car, if looking ahead and around, may have noted that the blue car was reversing a little too quickly or unsafely, and got out of the way.



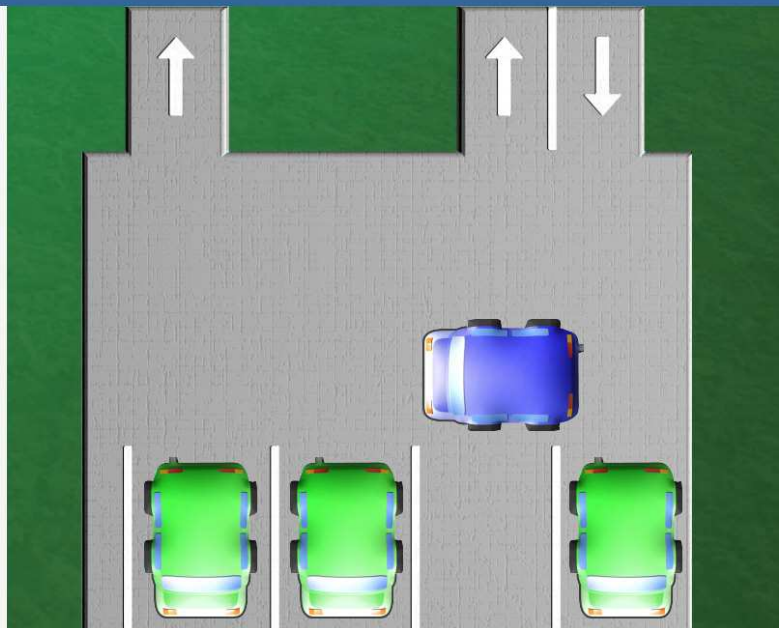
Common Accidents

Reversing in a Carpark. Reversing in a carpark can be tricky. Impatient drivers, small areas, crowding, trolleys, kids and shopping.

This is why you must pay extra attention in crowded areas and shopping centre car parks.

In this example, the green car reverses without checking, and runs into the blue car. But it could just as easily have been a child.

Reversing is always dangerous, and should be undertaken with great care anywhere near people. Always take a look over your shoulder before reversing.

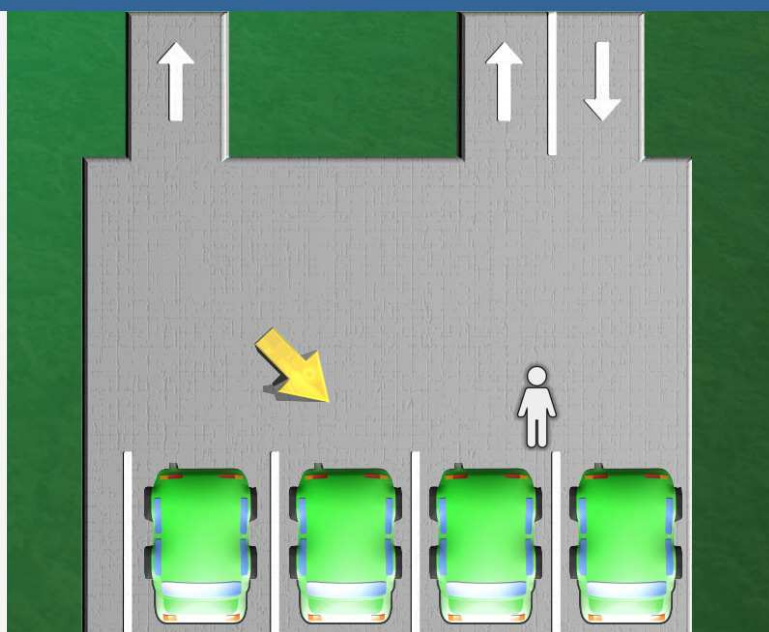


Common Accidents

Reversing. Reversing is one thing that cannot be hurried. No matter how impatient you are.

Reverse slowly. Always. Take a good look, always. Turn the radio off, always.

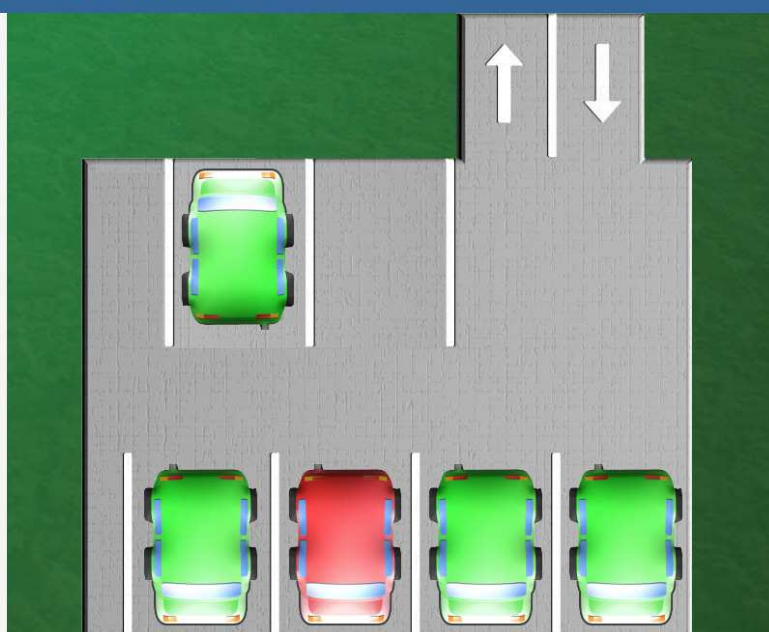
People, especially children, die every day from reversing cars.



Common Accidents

Reversing Near Other Cars. When reversing from a park in a carpark or shopping centre, look out for cars reversing from the opposite parking spots.

Both you and the other driver need to keep an eye on not just other cars and pedestrians behind you, but cars opposite you. If you spot someone reversing towards you, either beep the horn, or if safe, switch to first gear to go forwards into your spot again.

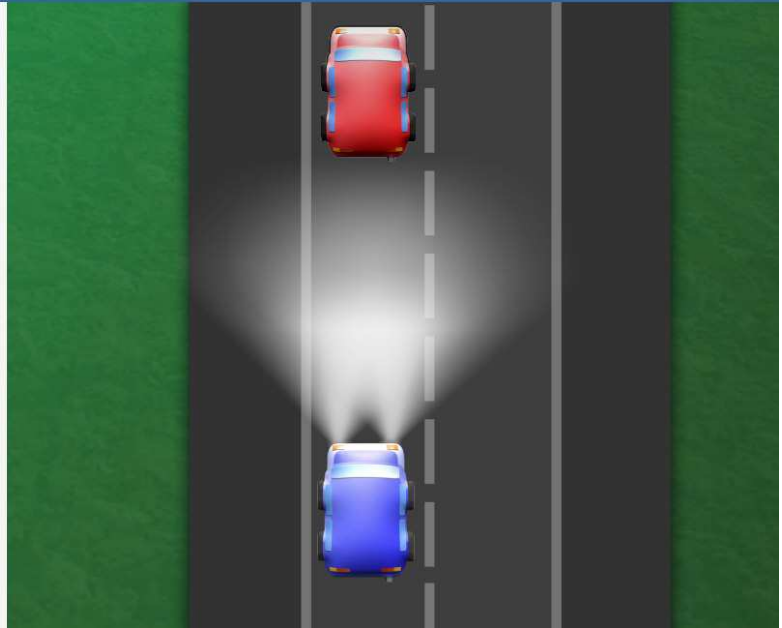


Common Accidents

Driving at Night. Although there is around 60% less traffic at night, around 40% of all fatal traffic accidents occur at this time, including dawn and dusk.

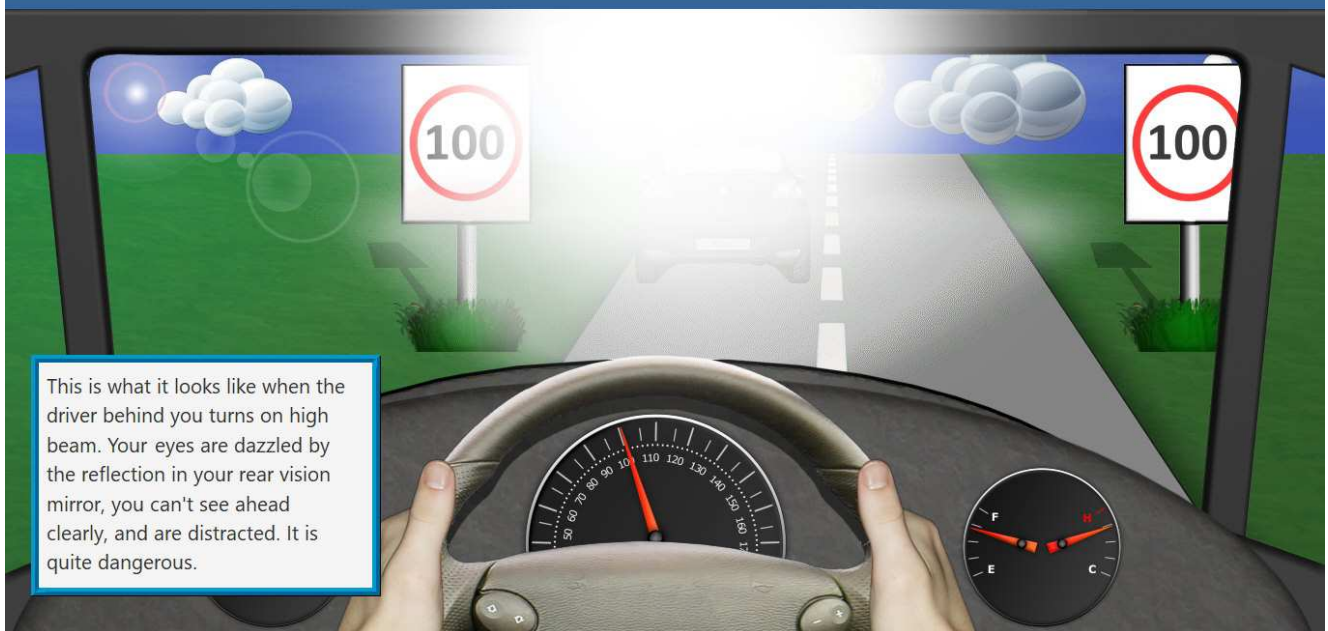
It's not always just the light that is a problem, as it is at night where most drunk and fatigued drivers are on the road.

So, be careful. Ensure you use high beam only when there is not a car within 200m of the front of you (travelling in either direction), as the bright light can dazzle and disorient drivers.



Common Accidents

This is what it looks like when the driver behind you turns on high beam. Your eyes are dazzled by the reflection in your rear vision mirror, you can't see ahead clearly, and are distracted. It is quite dangerous.



Common Accidents

If you get 'high-beamed' by someone behind you, locate and flick the small switch at the bottom centre of your rear vision mirror. This changes the reflection angle and reflection amount in the mirror so that you can see the cars behind you, but the bright lights are muted.



Common Accidents

Potholes. Potholes are dangerous dips or holes in the road that can happen at any time, but most often after some wet weather.

It is not always possible to see a pothole before you hit it. But what you can do is report that pothole to the local council, or even the police if you believe it to be dangerous.

You can report any road hazard to the council or police if you think they are unaware of the hazard.



Common Accidents

Aquaplaning (Hydroplaning). When there are a few inches of water on the road, driving through it at speed can cause the car to aquaplane.

Aquaplaning involves the car tyres losing contact with the road, and loss of control of the car swiftly follows.

It is recommended that you do not use cruise control in situations like this, as it can increase the likelihood of aquaplaning.

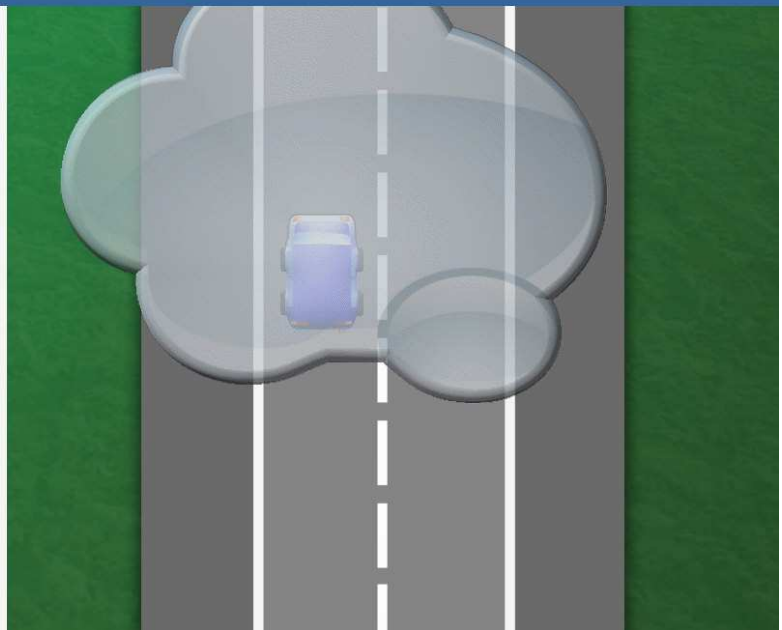


Common Accidents

Driving into Water. If you find yourself submerged in your car under water, you have to act quickly. You may have only a minute or so.

Experts recommend the following steps:

- First, never drive into water, as we've discussed. You don't know how deep it is, or whether currents exist.
- If submerged, undo all seatbelts.
- Next, open your windows. It is likely that even electric windows will still work for a short time if the car is submerged.
- Push children out the window, and follow them out as quickly as possible.



Common Accidents

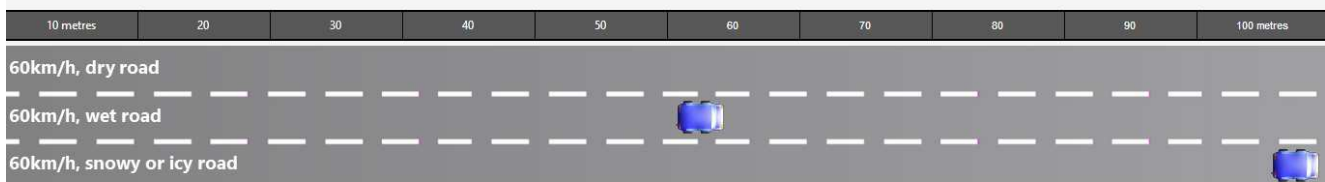
Window Hammers. If the thought of being trapped underwater in a car scares you - as it probably should, you should purchase what is called a **Window Hammer**, designed for such purposes. These are inexpensive, and available online almost anywhere.

A Window Hammer makes it easier to smash a window if required. And if your windows are stuck closed, or the water pressure on the other side of the window prevents the window from being opened, a Window Hammer may be your only chance.



Common Accidents

60km/h, road surface comparison.



Above, you can see how long, comparatively, it takes for a car to stop on different road surfaces.

Snow and ice surfaces vary in slipperiness - and stopping may take from 5 to 10 times the dry road distance.

Common Accidents




Heavy Vehicles. Pulling in front of heavy vehicles before a stop is very dangerous. These vehicles take much longer to stop than you do, and the animation here is likely to result in an accident.

Always respect larger vehicles, and how much longer they take to stop, and how much more room they may take to turn. Be very careful changing lanes around them, and never change lanes in front of them near a stop.



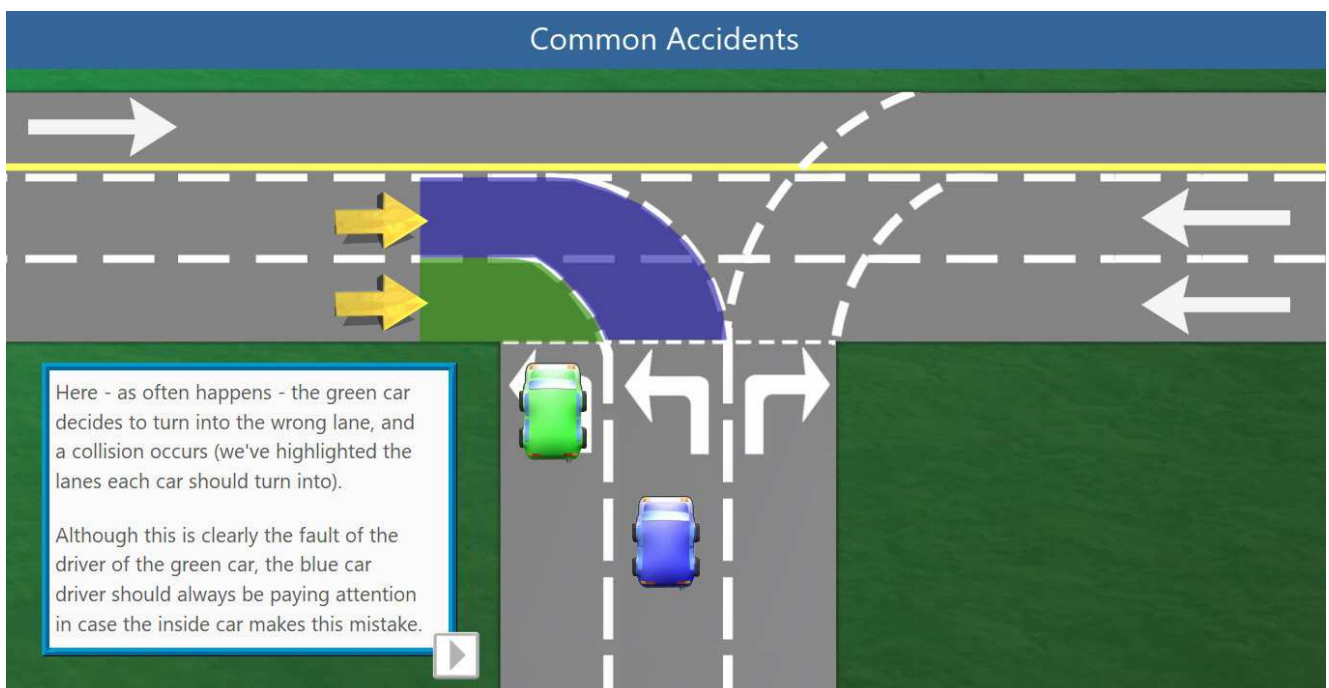
Common Accidents

60km/h, dry road, vehicle comparison.

	10 metres	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100 metres
Corvette Stingray										
'Average' car										
18 wheeler truck										

Above is a comparison of the distance it takes for a car and larger vehicles to stop.

Common Accidents



Common Accidents

There are a number of other factors that play a role in accidents. We cover them in other lessons:

- Drugs and Alcohol.
- Stopping Distance.
- Fatigue.
- Simple Car Maintenance.
- Using Your Lights.
- Using Your Horn.
- Getting Ready to Drive.
- The Three Second Rule.
- Reversing.
- Intersections.
- Making Turns.
- Traffic Lights.
- Give Way Signs.
- Stop Signs, and more.

Common Accidents

SUMMARY

In this lesson, we discussed **Common Accidents**. This included:

- Rear End Collision, Drifting, T-Intersection, and Running a Red Light.
- Too Fast on a Curve, Missing a Turn Completely.
- Single Car Accidents, Animals.
- Head On Collision.
- Watch Your Doors and Reversing Scenarios.
- Aquaplaning.
- Heavy Vehicles.

[FINISH LESSON](#)

Common Accidents

Signature. It is very important that you use the mouse, or touch, to *sign* the form below. This helps us record your progress accurately.

SUBMIT SIGNATURE

CLEAR SIGNATURE

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