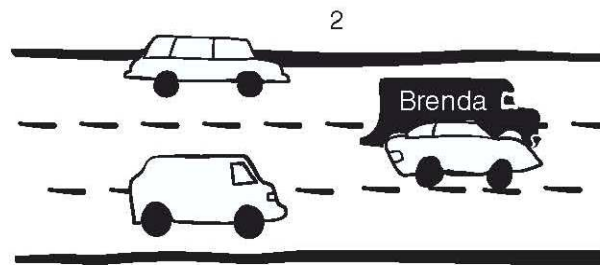
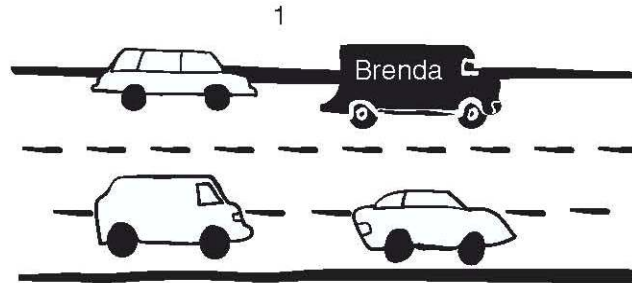


Could This Collision Have Been Prevented?

The Value of Foresight

It was a clear day and traffic was moving swiftly on the six-lane interstate. Brenda was in the far left lane. Nearing her exit, she switched on her turn signal, checked over her shoulder for traffic in the middle lane, and eased over.

Suddenly a horn blared to her right, followed by the impact of metal on metal. Even though the middle lane had been clear, Brenda's car and another vehicle had come together in a narrow-angle collision.



1. What went wrong here? _____

2. What would have prevented this collision?

3. Can you list the steps of a safe lane change?

Answers:

1. The other driver had decided to move from the right lane to the middle lane at the same time Brenda moved to the right. Both had checked only the lane they were moving into.
2. If either Brenda or the other driver had remembered to check for cars moving into the center from the other lane, the collision probably wouldn't have occurred. This collision illustrates the value of foresight, an important characteristic of defensive driving.
3. Use your turn signal. Allow a four-second gap where you enter the lane. Check your mirrors, and your blind spot, and look over your shoulder. Cross only one lane at a time. Avoid slowing down or speeding up drastically to change lanes. Plan ahead so you have plenty of time to change lanes. Finally, remember to turn off your turn signal.

