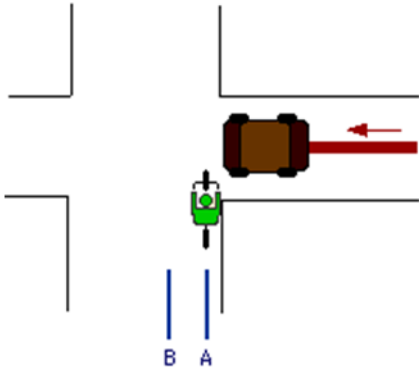


# HOW NOT TO GET HIT BY CARS

## IMPORTANT LESSONS IN BICYCLE SAFETY

*This page shows you real ways you can get hit and the real ways to avoid them.*



### Collision Type #1

### The Right Cross

This is the most common way to get hit (or almost hit). A car pulling out of the side street, parking lot, or driveway on the right. There are actually two possible kinds of collisions here: Either you're in front of the car and the car hits you or the car pulls out in front of you and you slam into it.

#### ***How to Avoid This Collision:***

- Get a Headlight if you're riding at night. It is required by law.
- Honk – You may feel awkward honking or yelling but it's better to be embarrassed than to get hit.
- Slow down. If you can't make eye contact with the driver, slow down so much that you are able to completely stop if you have to.
- Ride farther to the left. Look at the two blue lines "A" and "B" in the picture. You are probably used to riding in "A", very close to the curb, because you're worried about being hit from behind. But take a look at the car. When the driver is looking down the road for traffic, he's not looking in the bike lane or the closest to the curb; he's looking in the MIDDLE of the lane for other cars. The farther left you are, the more likely the driver will see you.



### Collision Type #2

### The Door Prize

A driver opens his door right in front of you. You run right into it if you can't stop in time.

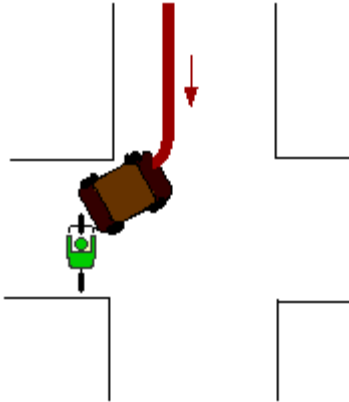
#### ***How to Avoid This Collision:***

- Ride to the left. Ride far enough to the left that you will not run into any door that's opened unexpectedly.

### Collision Type #3

### The Crosswalk Slam

You're riding on the sidewalk and cross the street at a crosswalk, and a car makes a right turn right in front of you.



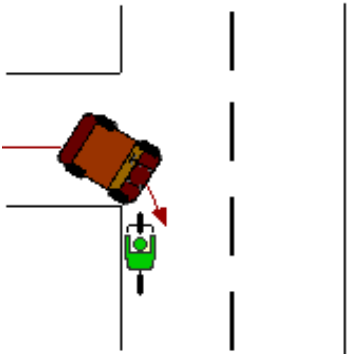
#### *How to Avoid This Collision:*

- Get a headlight. If you're riding at night, you should use a headlight. It is required by law.
- Slow down. Slow down enough that you are able to completely stop if necessary.
- Do not ride on the sidewalk in the first place. Crossing between sidewalks can be a fairly dangerous maneuver. If you do it on the left-hand side of the street, you risk getting slammed as per the diagram. If you do it on the right-hand side of the street, you risk getting slammed by a car behind you that's turning right. You also risk getting hit by cars pulling out of parking lots or driveways.
- Your bike is as threatening to a pedestrian as a car is threatening to you. Finally, riding on a sidewalk is illegal in some places. Check your local laws.

### Collision Type #4

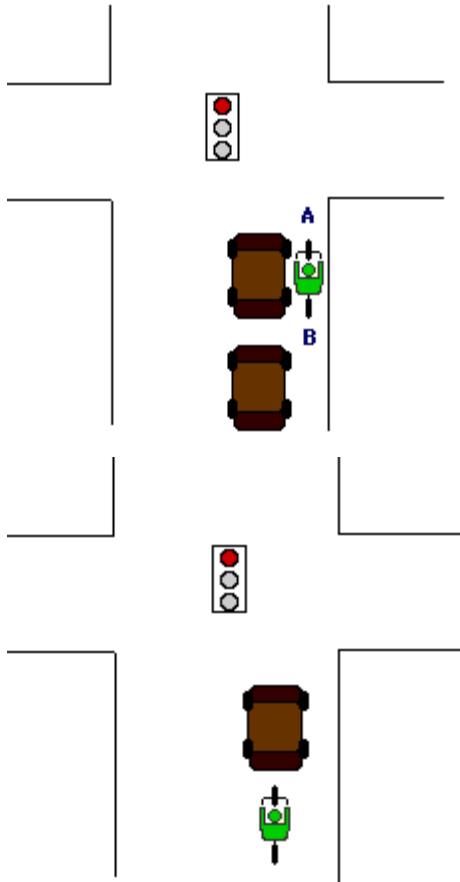
### The Wrong Way Wreck

You're riding the wrong way (against traffic, on the left-hand side of the street). A car makes a right turn from a side street, driveway, or parking lot, right into you. They didn't see you because they were looking for traffic only on their left, not on their right. They had no reason to expect that someone would be coming at them from the wrong direction.



#### *How to Avoid This Collision:*

- Don't ride against traffic. Ride with traffic in the same direction.
- One study showed that riding the wrong way was three times as dangerous as riding the right way. Nearly one-fourth of crashes involve cyclists riding the wrong way. Some readers challenge this saying if 25% of crashes are from going the wrong way, then riding the right way is more dangerous because it accounts for 75% of crashes. That thinking is wrong—only 8% of cyclists ride the wrong way, yet nearly 25% of them get hit—meaning wrong-way cyclists really are 3x more likely to get hit than those who ride the proper way.



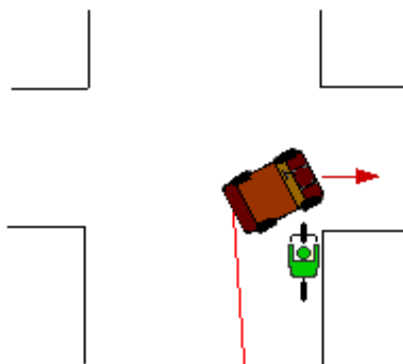
## Collision Type #5

## Red Light of Death

You stop to the right of a car that's already waiting at a red light or STOP sign. They Can't see you. When the light turns green, you move forward, and then they turn right, right into you.

### *How to Avoid This Collision:*

- Don't stop in the blind spot. Simply stop BEHIND a car, instead of to the right of it, as per the diagram. This makes you very visible to traffic on all sides. It's impossible for the car behind you to avoid seeing you when



## Collision Type #6

## The Right Hook

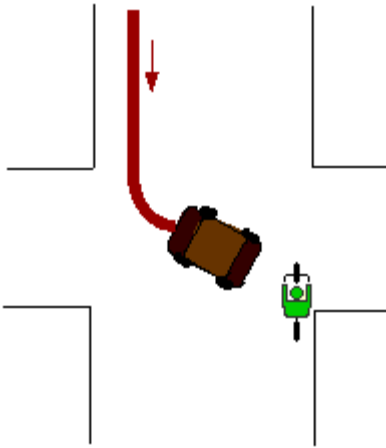
You're passing a slow-moving car (or even another bike) on the right, when it unexpectedly makes a right turn right into you, trying to get to a parking lot, driveway or side street.

### *How to Avoid This Collision:*

- Do not pass on the right. If a car ahead of you is going only 10 mph, then slow down too, behind it. Remember not to be in the drivers blind spot, but to the right of it.
- Look behind you before turning right.

## Collision Type #7

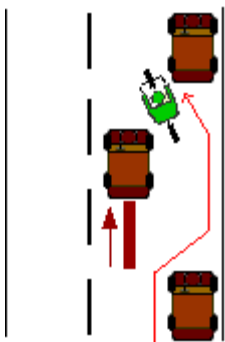
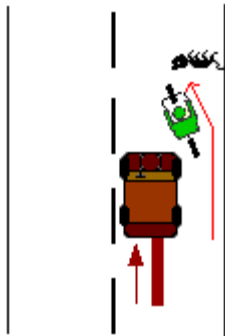
## The Left Cross



A car coming towards you makes a left turn right in front of you, or right into you.

### *How to Avoid This Collision:*

- Don't ride on the sidewalk. When you come off the sidewalk to cross the street, you're invisible to turning motorists.
- Get a headlight. If your riding at night, use a front headlight. It is required by law.
- Wear something bright, even during the day.
- Don't pass on the right. Don't overtake slow-moving vehicles on the right.
- Slow down. If you cannot make eye contact with the driver, slow down that you are able to completely stop if you have to. Sure it's inconvenient, but it beats getting hit.



## Collision Type #8

## The Rear End

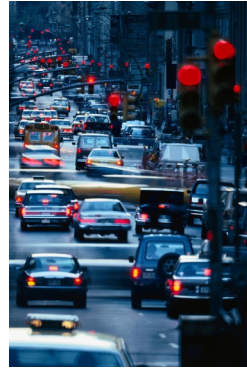
You innocently move a little to the left to go around a parked car or some other object in the road, and you get hit by a car coming up from behind.

### *How to Avoid This Collision:*

- Never move left without looking behind you first.
- Don't swerve in and out of the parking lane if it contains and parked cars.
- Use a mirror. It will help you monitor traffic without constantly having to look behind you.

# More General Tips

Avoid busy streets



Choose wide and slow streets

Ride as if you were invisible



Light up  
front headlights and rear reflectors