

TRAFFIC RULES IN THAILAND AND HOW TO AVOID TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS



DRIVING IN THAILAND AND HOW TO STAY ALIVE





**I. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO
PREPARE FOR THAI TRAFFIC
SITUATIONS?**

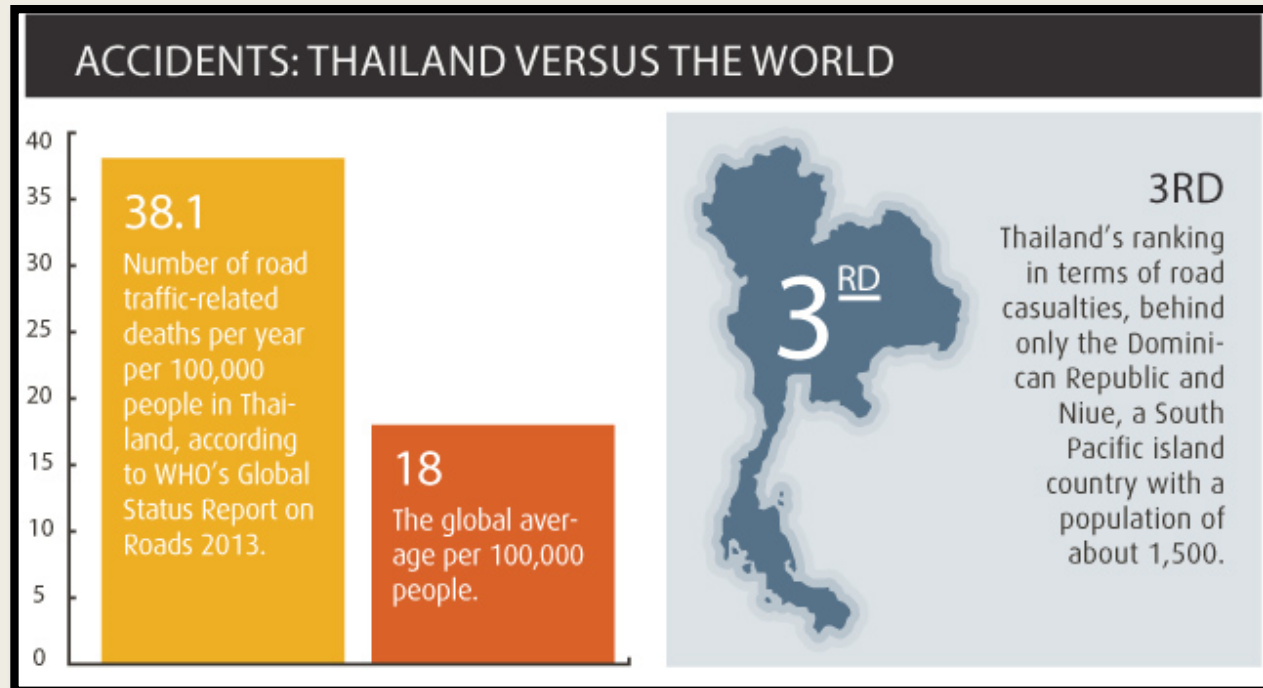
**II. HOW IS THAI TRAFFIC
DIFFERENT?**

III. IMPORTANT POINTS



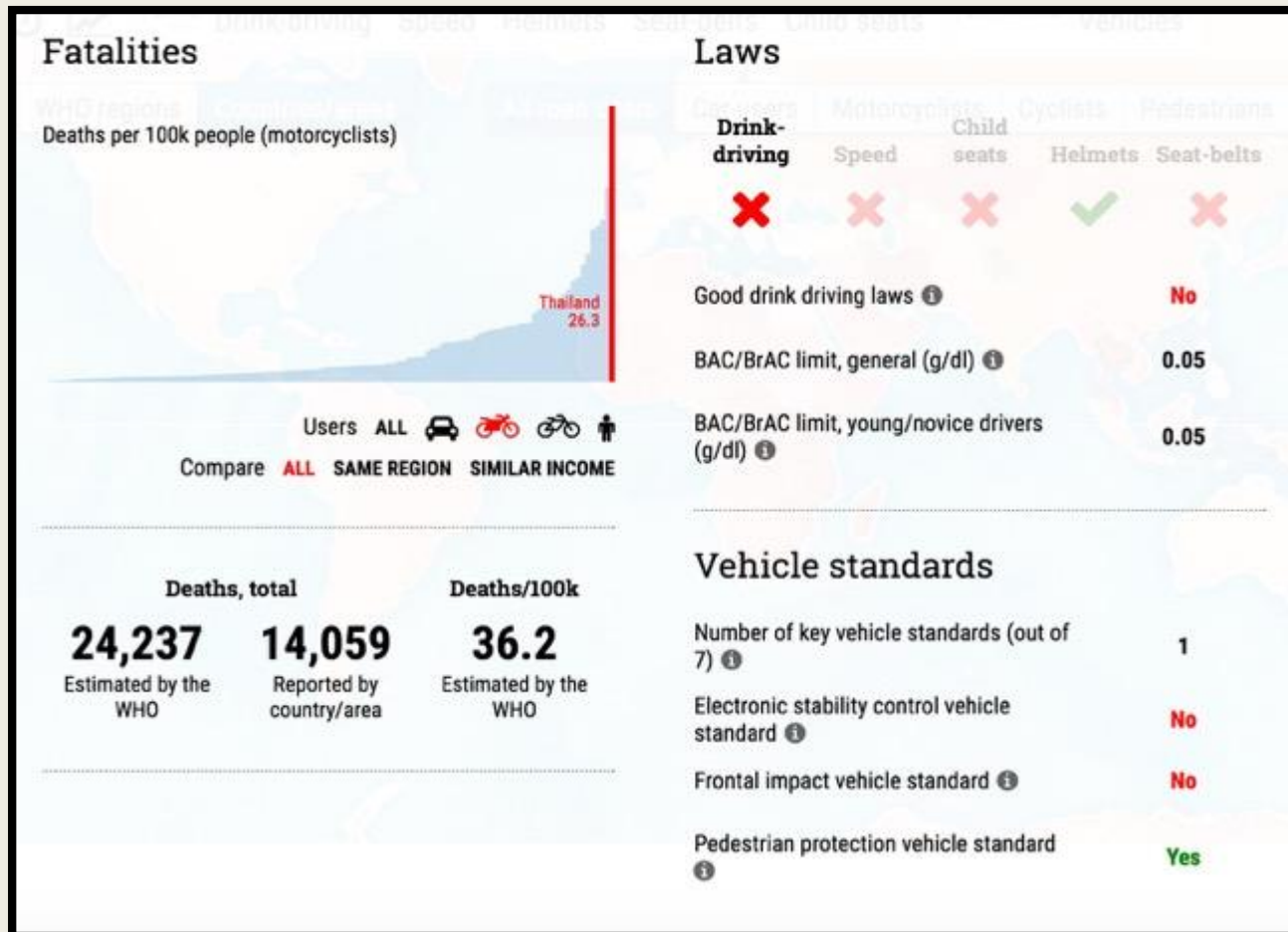
I. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PREPARE FOR THAI TRAFFIC SITUATIONS?

Thailand has for many years in a row ranked amongst the top countries of having traffic accidents in the world, especially for motorcycle accidents, according to studies from the WHO.



Many foreigners are involved in traffic accidents in Thailand,

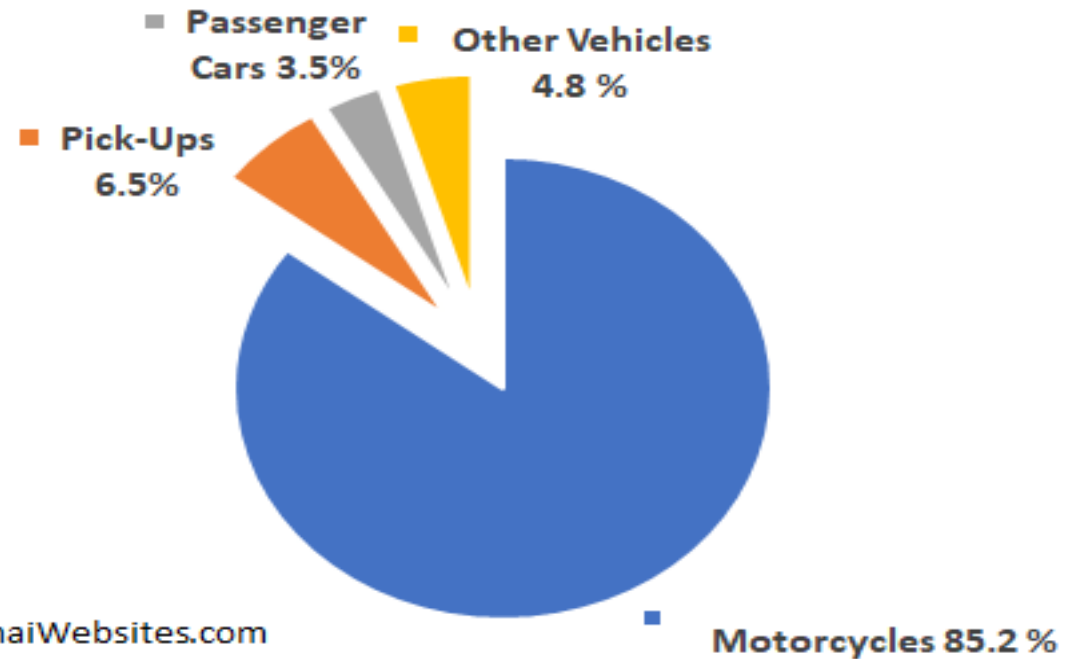
The simple reason that they trusted international rules and were not accustomed to the ways in which Thai people drive.



Thai people tend to bend (or break) the rules, so in daily practice traffic rules aren't observed in the same way as in more developed countries and

IF YOU WANT TO STAY SAFE, YOU'D BETTER BE AWARE OF HOW THINGS ARE DIFFERENT HERE.

Types of Vehicles involved in Road Accidents (2019-2020 and 2020-2021 average)



II. HOW IS THAI TRAFFIC DIFFERENT?

Traffic rules in theory apply internationally and so also in Thailand, but traffic behaviour in Thailand is rather different mainly because of cultural and development factors.

Thai people tend to bend (or break) the rules, so in daily practice traffic rules aren't observed in the same way as in more developed countries and if you want to stay safe, you'd better be aware of how things are different here.



1. RANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY

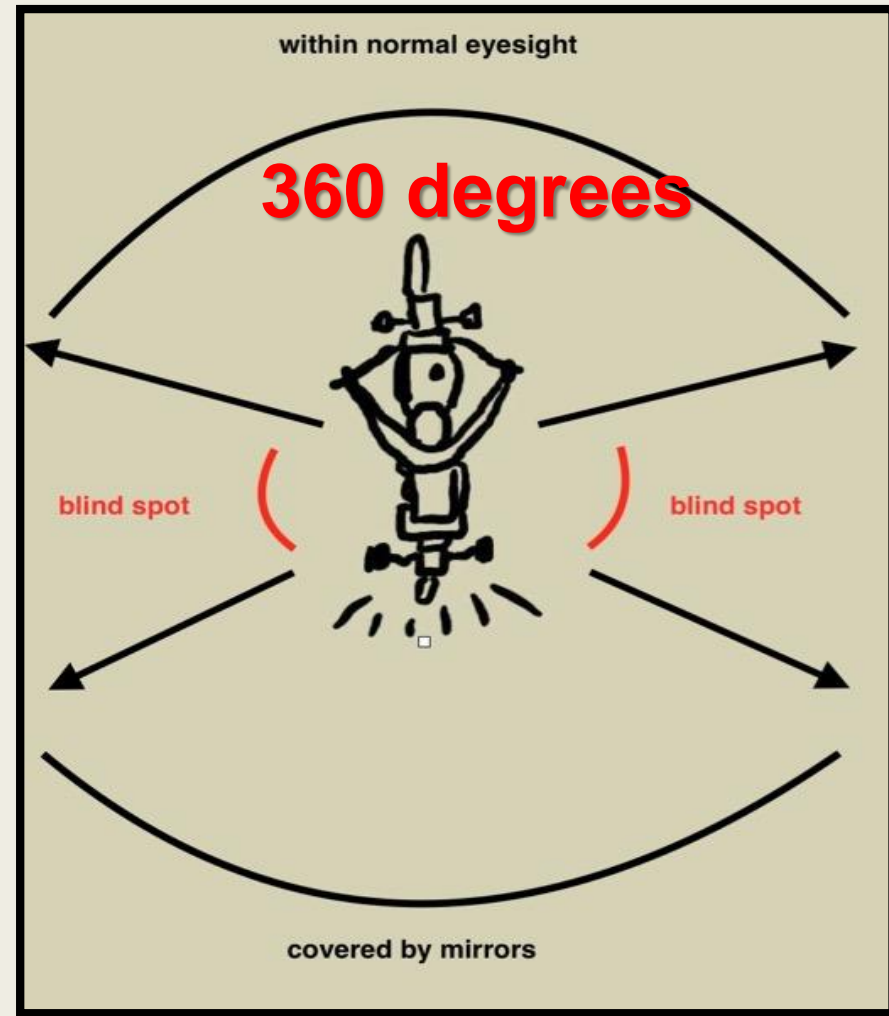
The most important factor that influences *all* Thai traffic behaviour is what is call a Thai driver's 'RANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY'.



RANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY

AN INTERNATIONAL DRIVER'S
RANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY IS
360 DEGREES,

According to international traffic
rules, you have to **check your
mirrors** and do a **shoulder
check** when you change lanes,
make a turn or in other
circumstances,

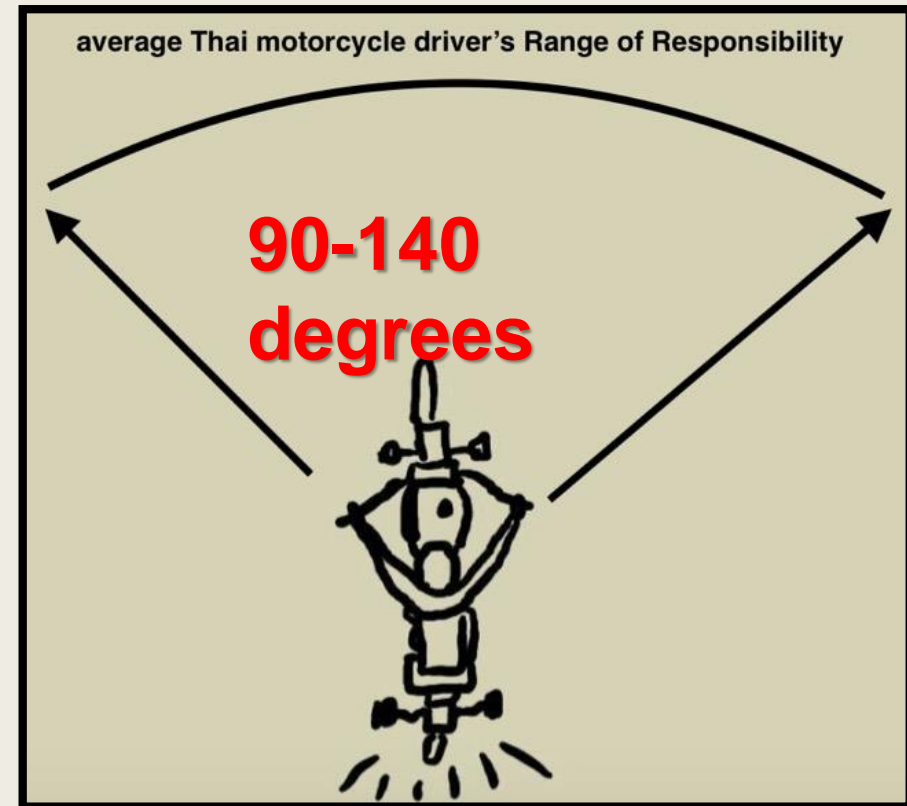


RANGE OF RESPONSIBILITY

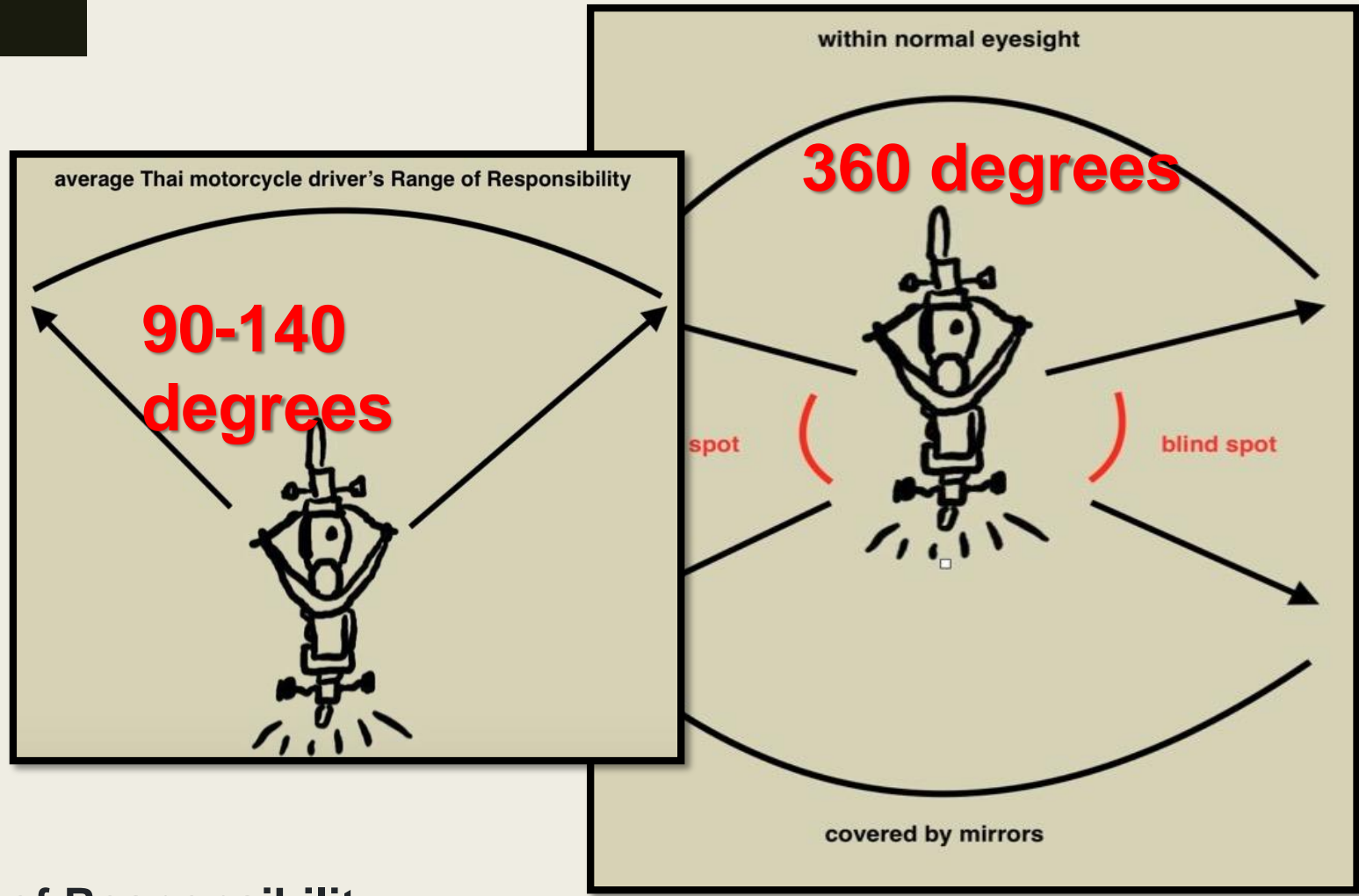
The average Thai driver's span of attention is only in front of him without turning his head. so we're talking about an angle of roughly 90-140 degrees in front of the vehicle

This is implicitly understood to be his

Range of Responsibility.

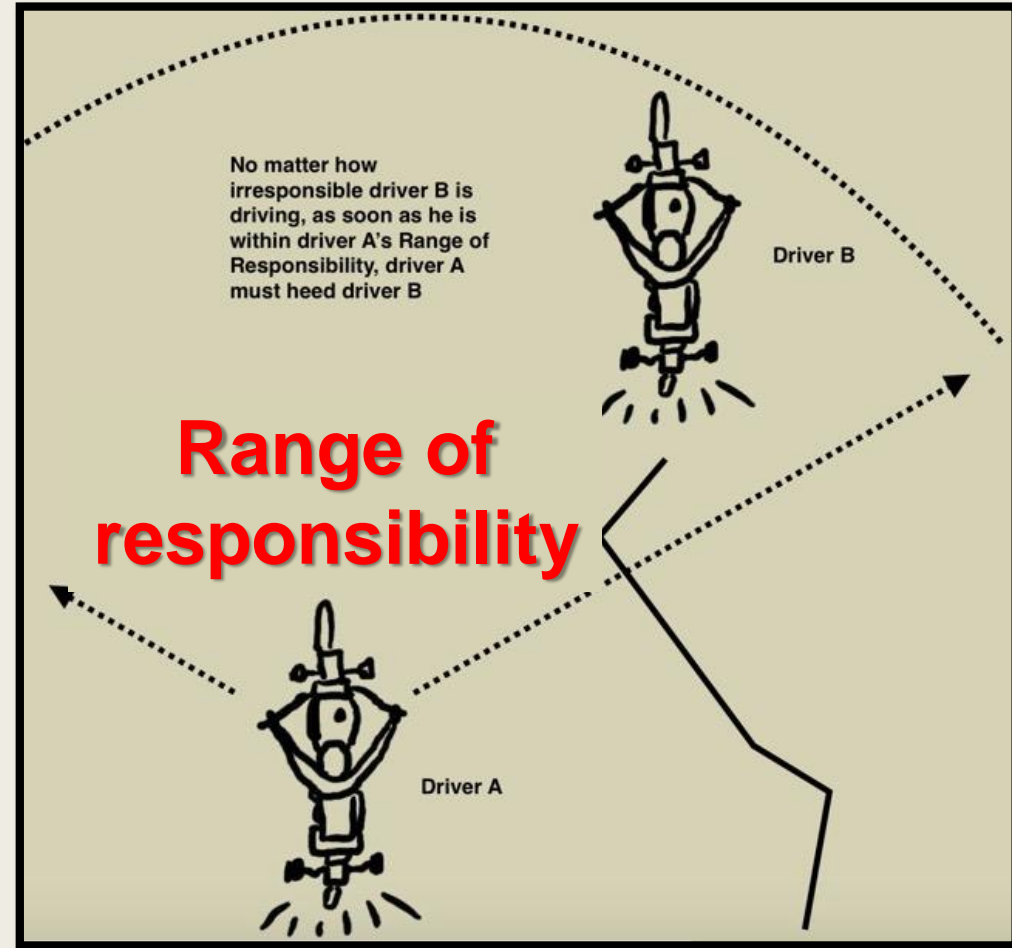


Most Thai people don't make sufficient use of mirrors and shoulder check, there is an implicit collective understanding that **a driver's main (or even only) responsibility rests within the span of his eyesight in front of him, his Range of Responsibility**



**BECAUSE THE
RANGE OF
RESPONSIBILITY IS THAT
TRAFFIC'S MAIN "RULE"
IT INFLUENCES ALL,
GOOD AND BAD**

It almost doesn't matter who's right or wrong according to the official rules, **in practice everyone acts according to this principle**



2. ADAPTING TO EACH OTHER RATHER THAN FOLLOWING THE RULES

Thai people don't trust the rules, don't rely on laws, and don't trust each other, but instead they are flexible to the situation and adapt.

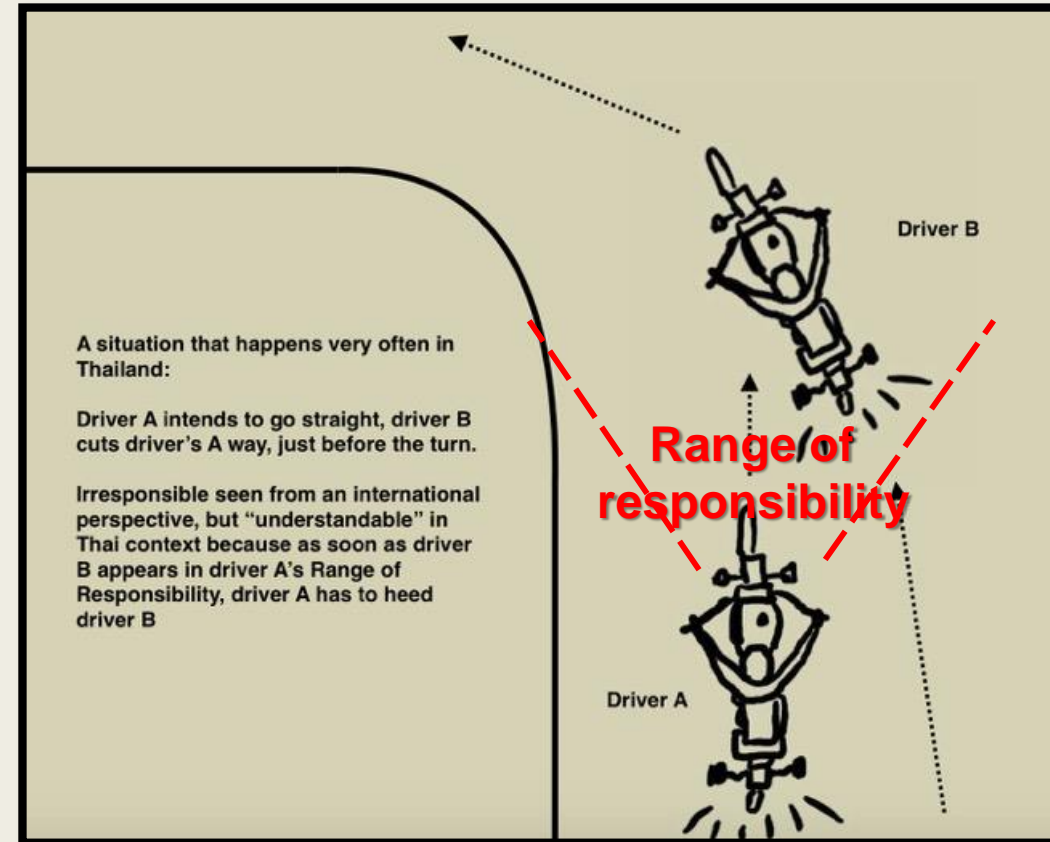
Thai drivers continuously adapt to each other rather than rely on real traffic rules. In other words, it's more important to watch and adapt than to trust and follow the rules.



*"You're in my sight so
I adapt to you"*

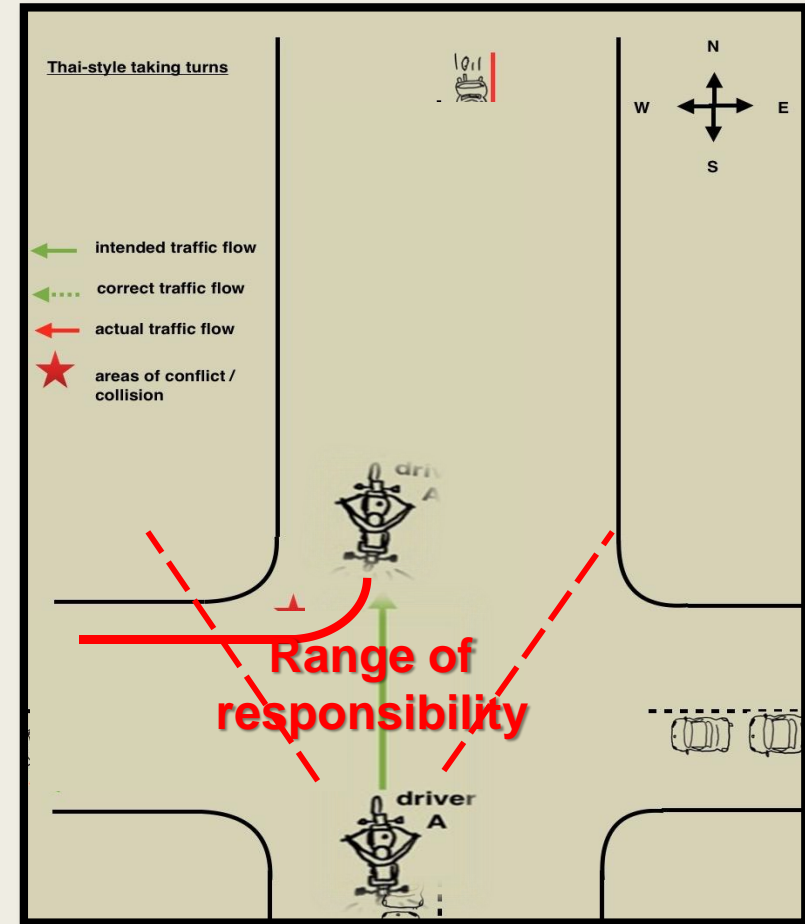
**is the practical solution that
Thai traffic society has adopted**

Another example is that Thai drivers tend to overtake someone just before a turn, which in international context doesn't make sense, creates dangerous situations and also obstructs the flow of traffic, but it does make sense in Thai context because when driver B suddenly appears in front of driver A, it means that now driver A has to take driver B into account because B is in A's Range of Responsibility.



***"You're in my sight so
I adapt to you"***
**is the practical solution that
Thai traffic society has adopted**

*Just driving straight into a main road is
very common in Thailand. It's irresponsible
from international perspective but
"understandable" in Thai context because
as soon as you appear in someone else's
Range of Responsibility, he should heed
you, even if you drive irresponsibly*



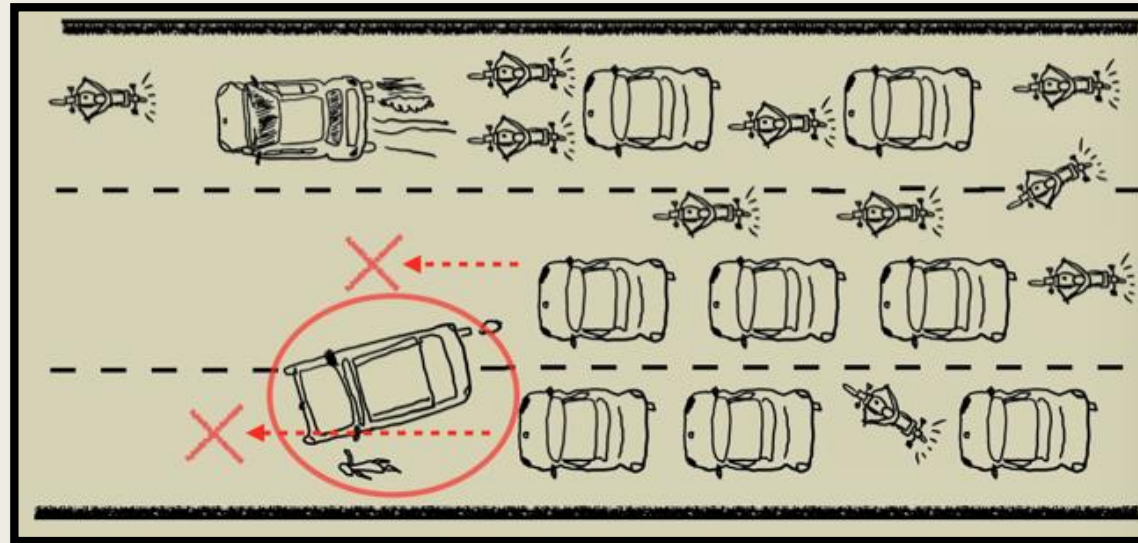
3. HINDERING TRAFFIC FLOWS IS COMMON

In Western driving schools you should have learned that you have to do what you can to avoid interrupting the flow of traffic,

Much of this is nearly alien to Thai style traffic where the concept of avoiding hindrance to others is nearly absent.



3. HINDERING TRAFFIC FLOWS IS COMMON



Common causes of traffic congestions on the road are wrong parking and stopping by songthaews to pick up customers.

This songthaew stops diagonally, thus blocking 2 out of 3 lanes.

time isn't as valuable as in Western societies, there is less of a hurry, no concept of opportunity costs.

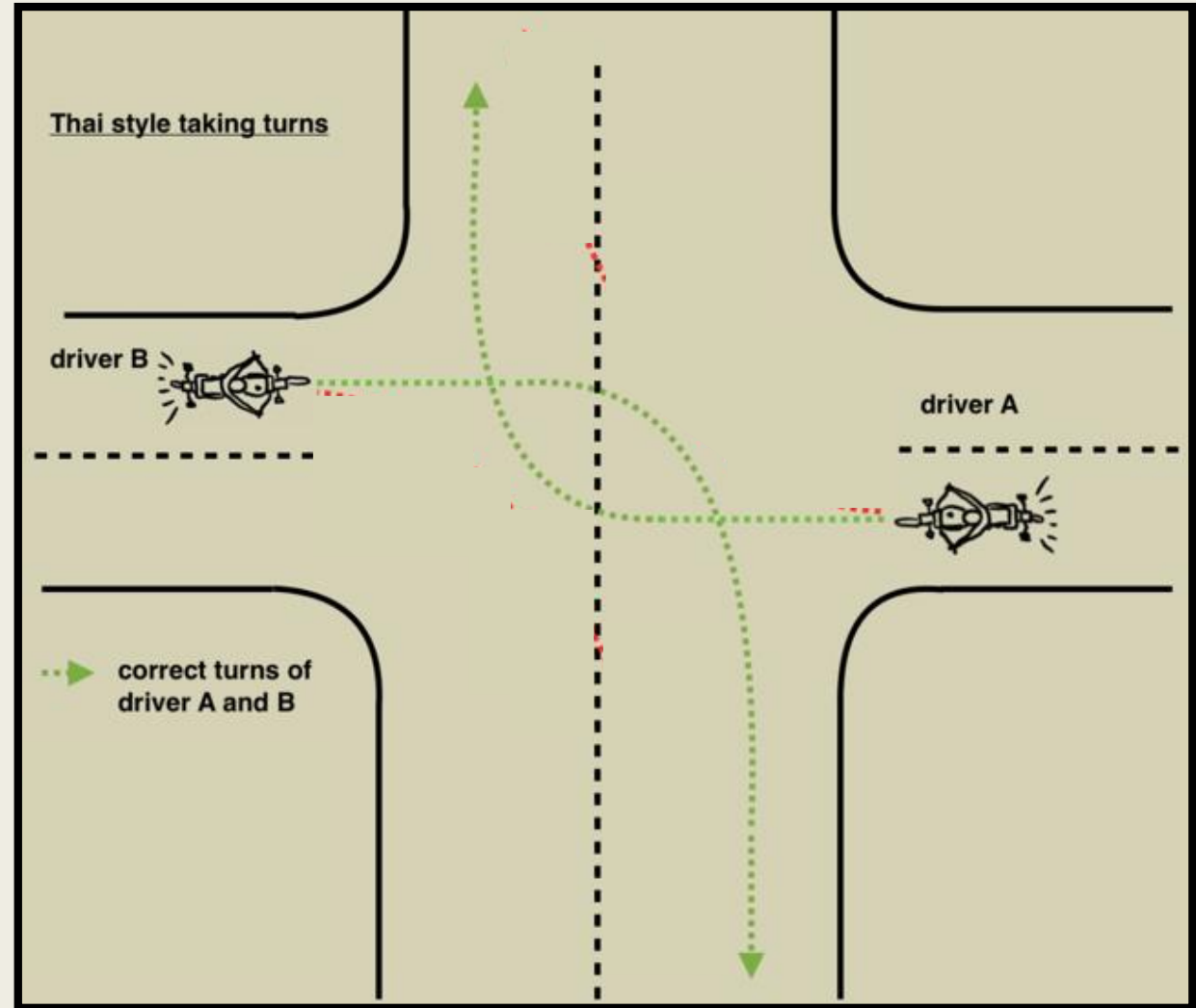
You're supposed to adapt and accommodate each other rather than claiming your rights

4. CUTTING CORNERS

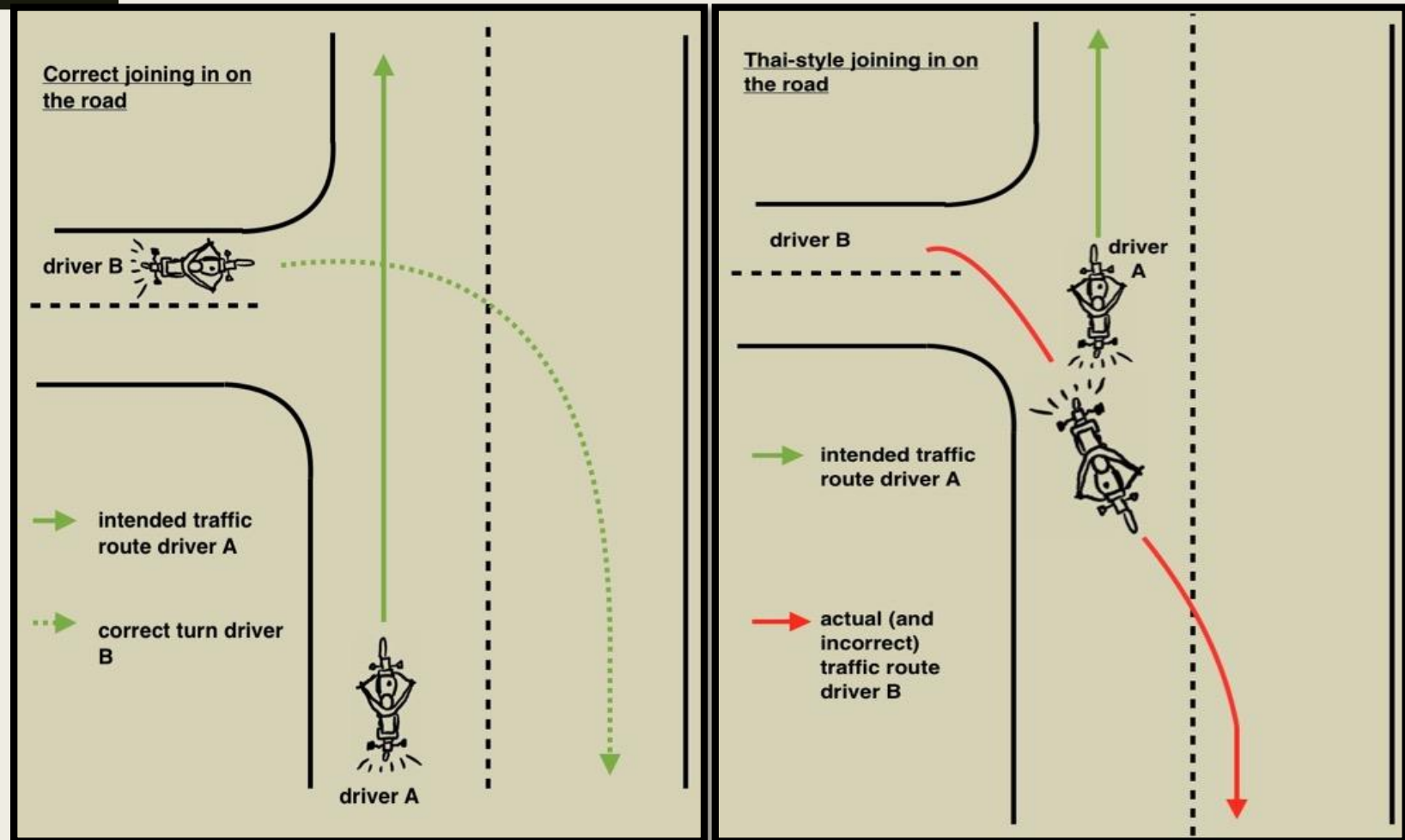
Have to wait traffic on a main road to pass first and then make a proper turn into that road, so you want to expect the same from your fellow road users.

Correct turns of two opposed drivers would be to cross each other,

In Thailand it's different



Thai drivers like to cut corners, so you have to anticipate incorrect traffic behaviour like this:



5. ANONYMOUS SELFISHNESS VERSUS PERSONAL *KRENG-JAI*- WHOEVER BLOCKS GOES FIRST

Selfishness is the norm, gentleman behaviour is nearly non-existent,



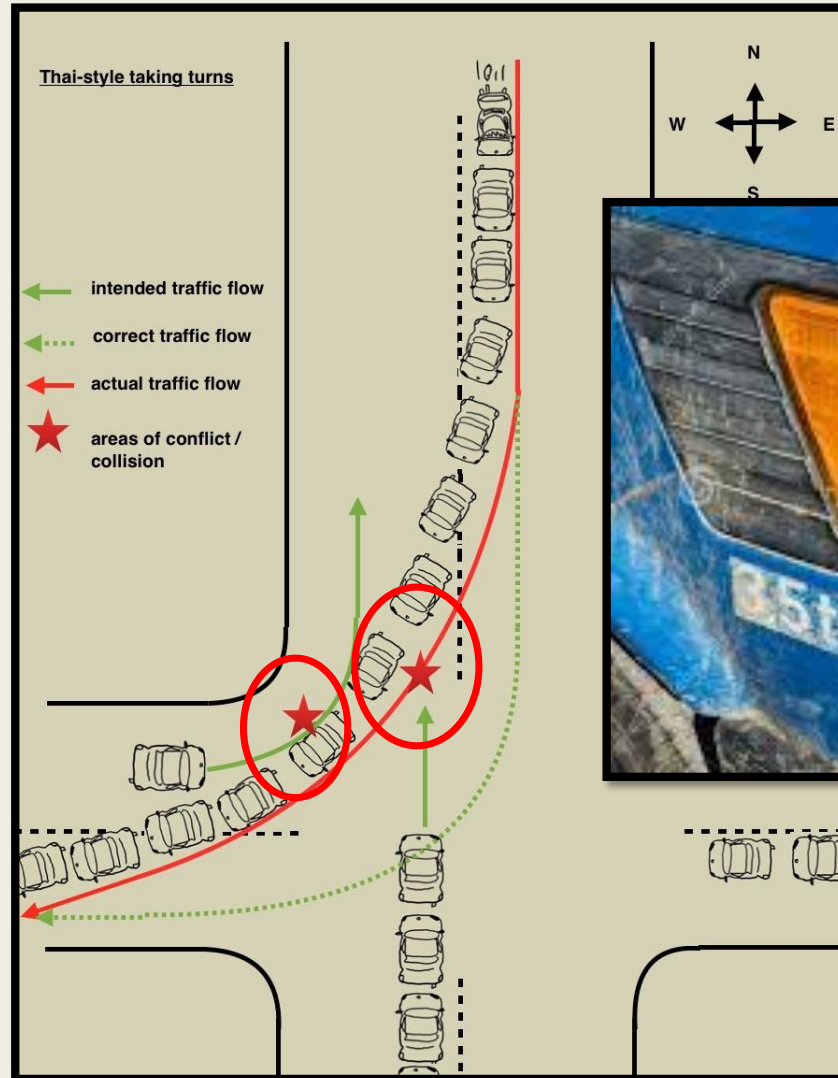
5. ANONYMOUS SELFISHNESS VERSUS PERSONAL *KRENG-JAI*- WHOEVER BLOCKS GOES FIRST

Flashing lights don't mean allowing another to go first but are meant as a warning that the driver is passing at a high speed and you'd better stay clear.



6. Lack of signaling

Lack or late signaling before making a turn is another example of selfish behaviour.



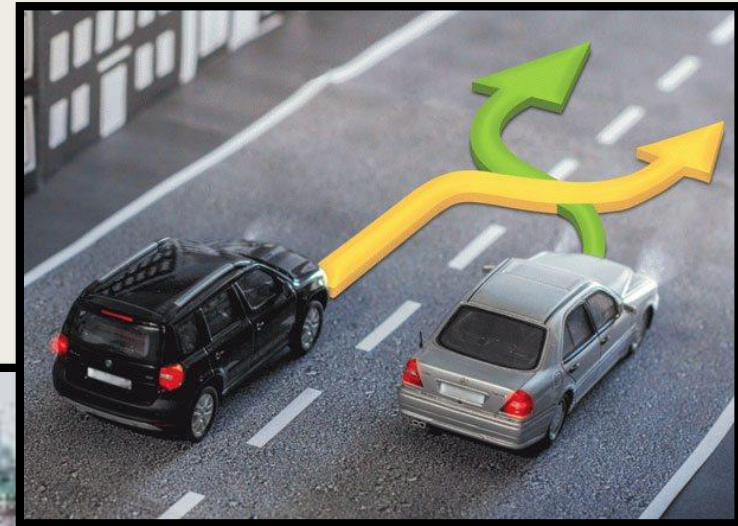
The image features two large, thick black L-shaped brackets. One is positioned on the left side, with its vertical bar extending downwards and its horizontal bar extending to the right. The other is on the right side, with its vertical bar extending upwards and its horizontal bar extending to the left. These brackets frame the central text.

III. IMPORTANT POINTS

CHANGING LANES

Changing lanes has no real meaning in thai-style traffic:

The road is just one wide open space and not many drivers signal a move from one lane to another.



THE TWO SECOND RULE.

The so-called **2-seconds rule** is keeping a proper distance between you and the vehicle in front of you that gives you 2 seconds to stop before reaching the point where the vehicle in front is;



00:02

Doesn't work because especially in the city, within no time the gap between you and the vehicle in front will fill up with scooters and cars.

PROPER SHOULDER CHECKS

Proper shoulder checks can be dangerous if you take too much time for it, because within a fraction of second some idiot can come in front of you and push the brakes.





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3sX00VSpIA>

RECKLESS BEHAVIOUR

many Thai drive recklessly, with contempt for danger and near complete disregard for consequences and the (social) environment.

Expecting others to stick to the rules doesn't work, you better watch the situation as it occurs and adapt.

HOWEVER.....

YOU ARE NOT THAI!





For Thai
its



SECOND NATURE
Family Ride





For Thai
its



SECOND NATURE
School Kids





For Thai
its



SECOND NATURE
A Balancing Act





But for us
its



DANGEROUS





UNDETERRED?

**SOME IMPORTANT
PREPARATION POINTS**



PREP ONE

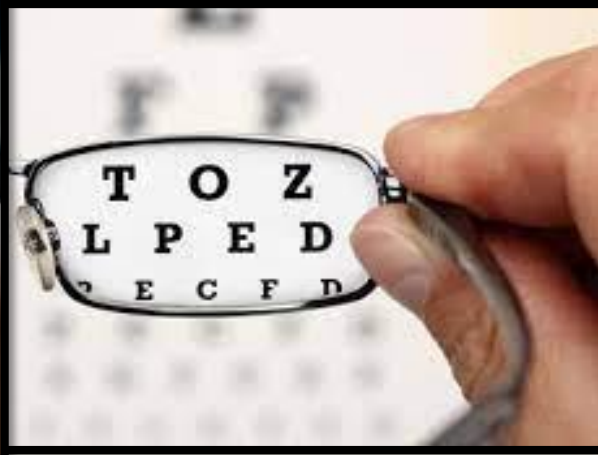
Invest in one
of these devices

Garmin
Samsung
Apple
Fitbit
Huawei
and more



Check HEART RATE BLOOD PRESSURE STRESS LEVELS

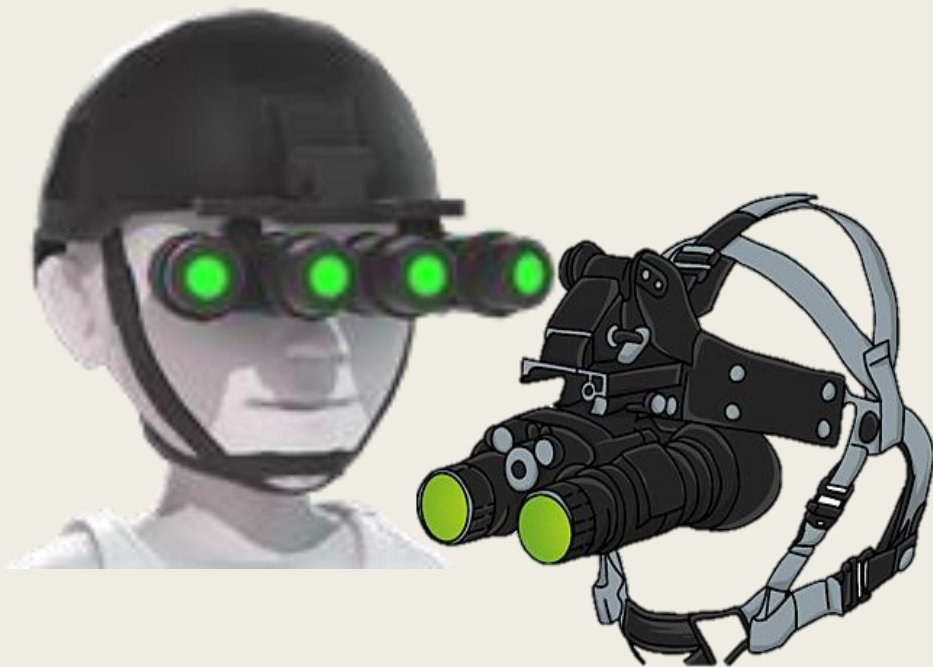




PREP TWO

GET EYES TESTED

Invest in NIGHT VISION GOGGLES



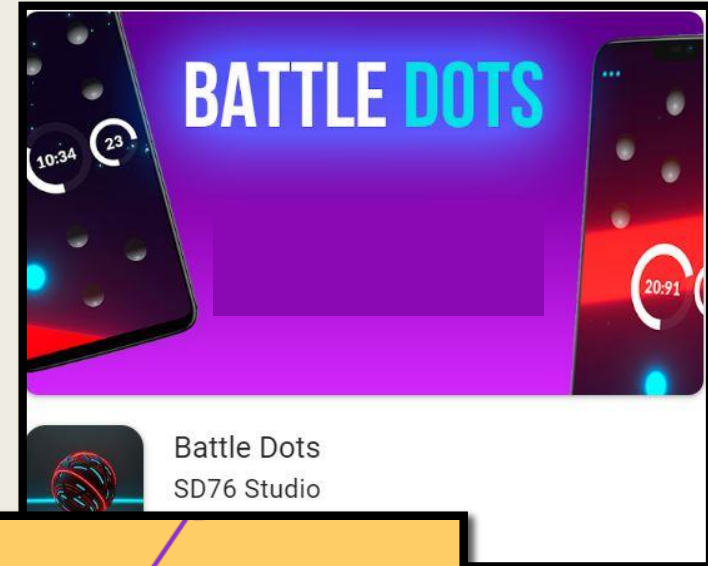
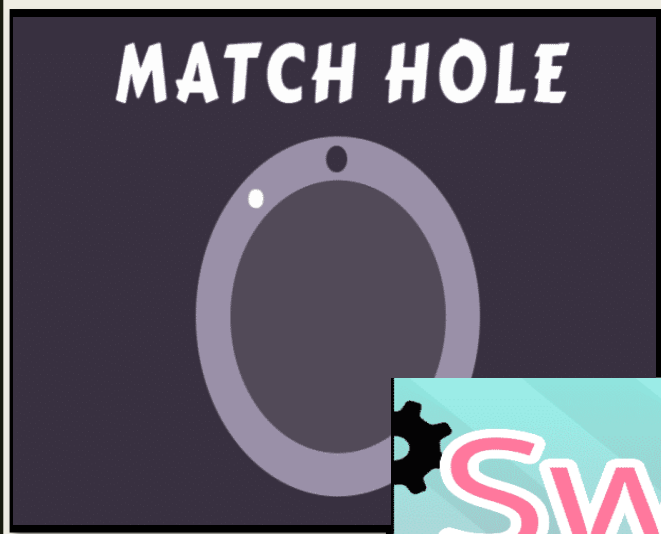
BEST

Get surgery



PREP THREE

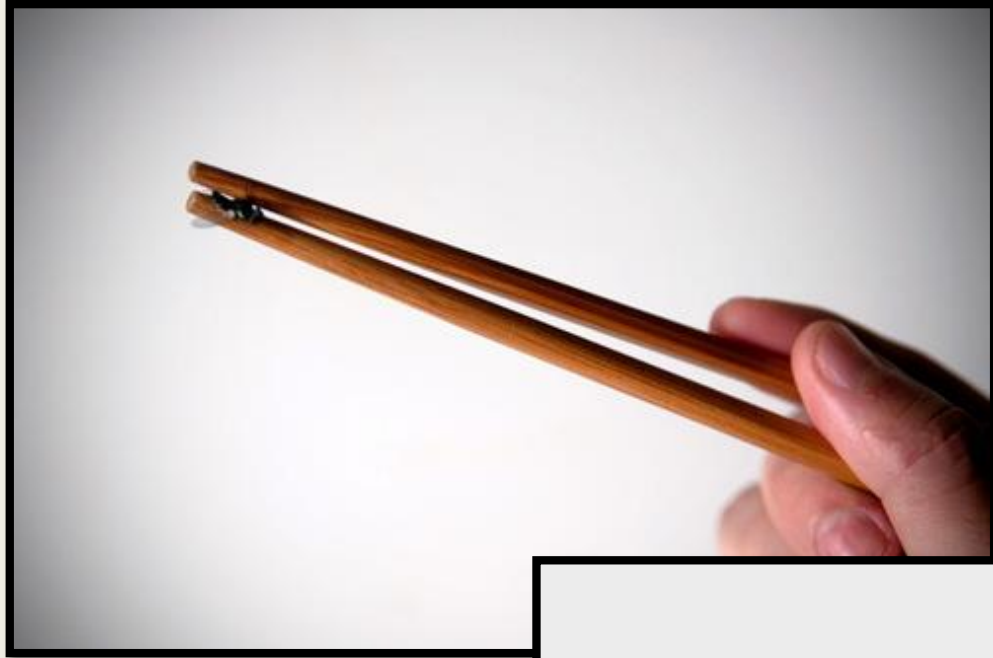
GOOGLE PLAY STORE





ALL DESIGNED TO
CHECK REFLEXES





**WHEN YOU CAN
CATCH A FLY WITH
CHOPSTICKS –
YOU ARE READY!**



PREP FOUR

GET
A
HELMET

and wear it!





AND
WEALTH



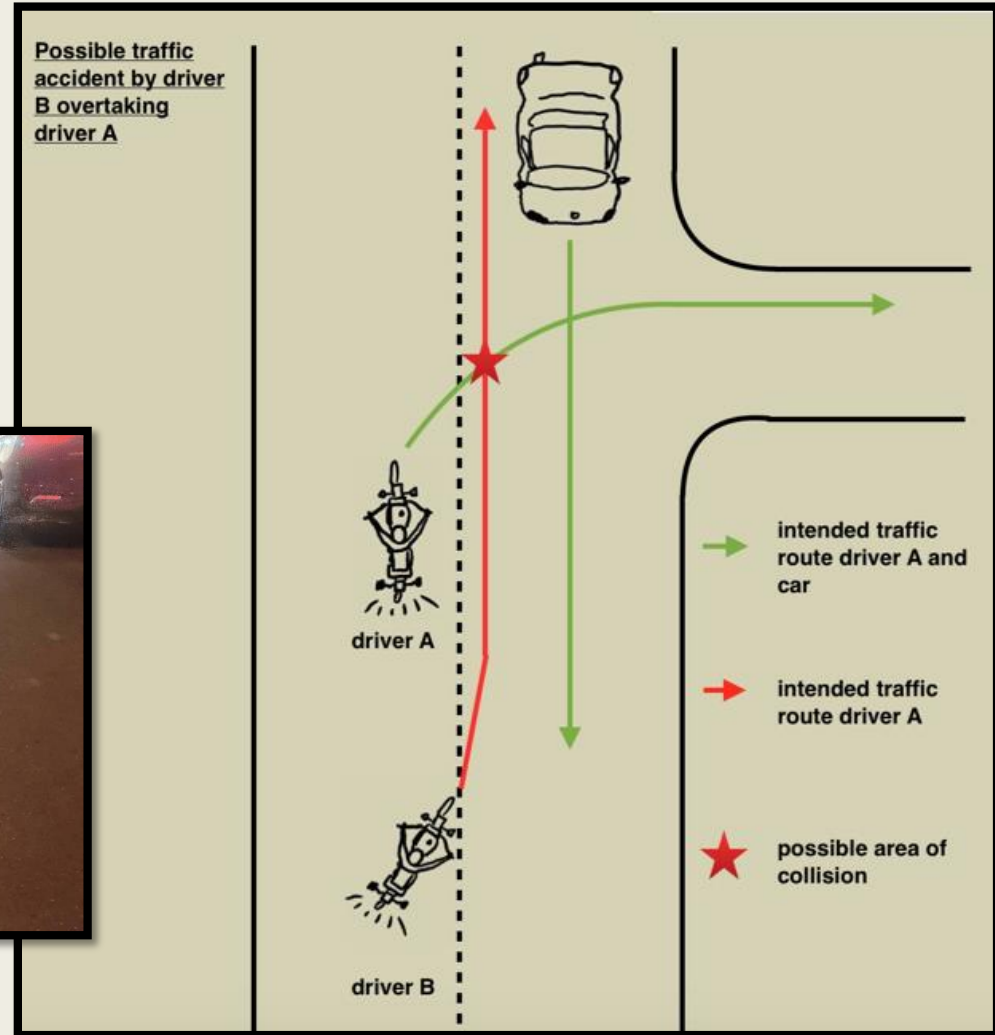
FOR YOUR
HEALTH



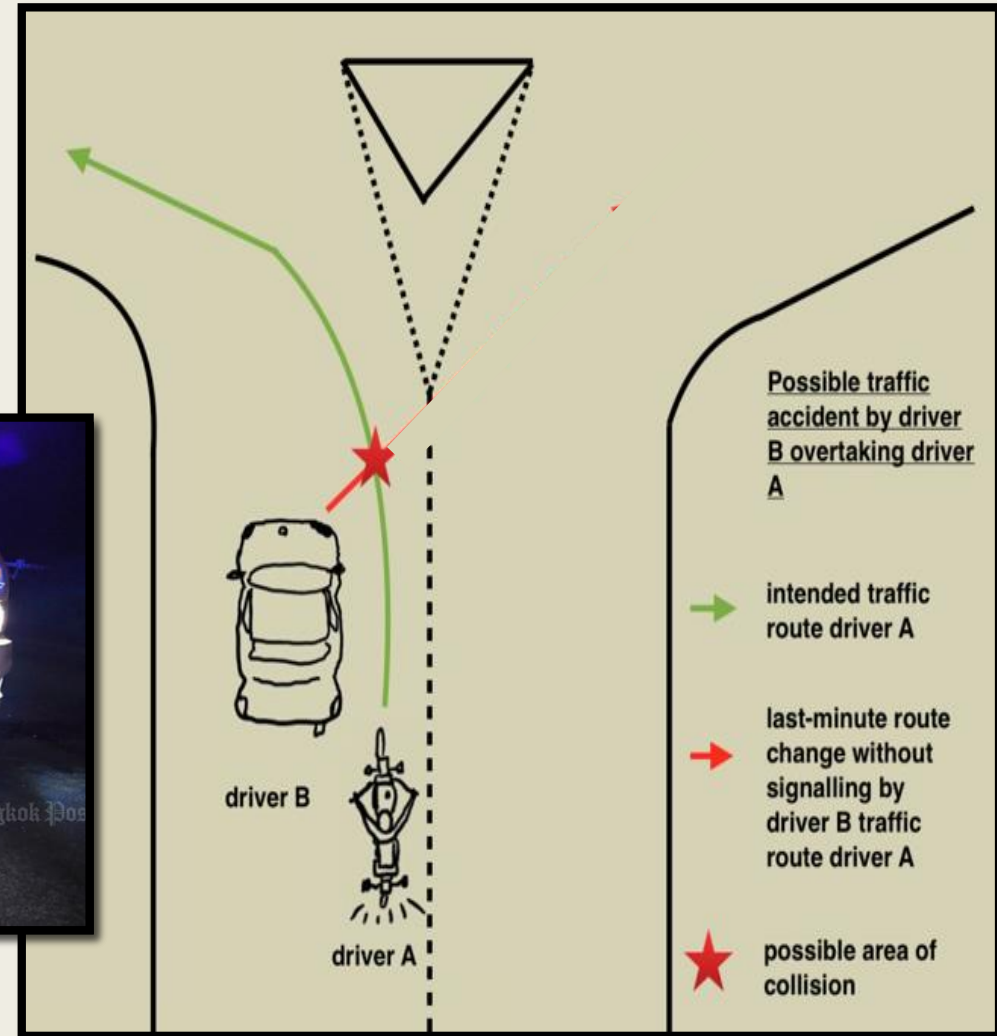


PREP FIVE
USING MIRRORS IS NECESSARY

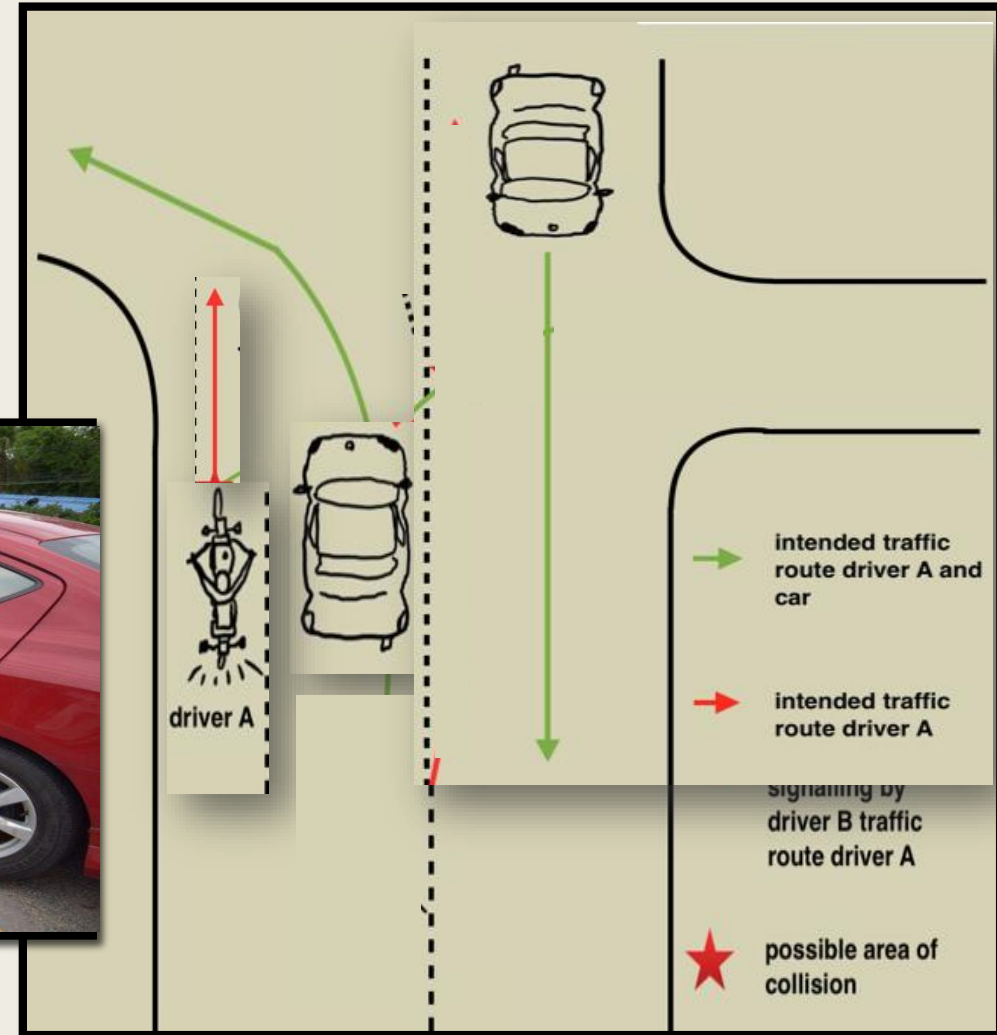
EXAMPLE OF WHY!



EXAMPLE OF WHY!



EXAMPLE OF WHY!



PREP SIX

Jai Yen Yen

“jai yen jai yen” cool down the hot hearts. In this sense, the phrase could also be translated as “take it easy”, “relax” or “chill out”

**KEEP HANDS
IN YOUR POCKET**



Britain/Australia

Turkey



France

Vietnam



Greece

Phillipines





Jai Yen Yen

There are many actions that Thai people consider to be bad Thai etiquette, that are perfectly fine to do in other countries. So if you live in Thailand, want to live in Thailand, or know Thai people, you should be aware of these gestures.

KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT!



Jai Yen Yen

There are many actions that Thai people consider to be bad Thai etiquette, that are perfectly fine to do in other countries. So if you live in Thailand, want to live in Thailand, or know Thai people, you should be aware of these gestures.

**KEEP YOUR HANDS
OFF THE HORN!**

Why? Personal Safety



Australian pensioner, 72, knocked out by punch after road rage in Thailand



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYdCaR-cbBo&t=57s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cj20RdD4lsc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qJXSmlwkUU>

Why? Road Rage



Why? Road Rage



Flipboard
<https://flipboard.com/topic/thailand/thethaiger>

Biker's road rage terrorising Bangkok family evokes ...

4 days ago — thethaiger.com - An incident of **road rage** escalated on Pattanakan Road ... rage terrorising Bangkok family evokes societal concerns (**video**).



TeakDoor.com
<https://teakdoor.com/thailand-and-asia-news/2150>

Road Rage Incident Between Foreigner and Taxi Driver

May 11, 2566 BE — The incident was reportedly caught on a viral **video**. The t... identified only as Mr. Adisak, told the Phuket Express that he filed a ...
4 posts - A foreign motorbike rider got angry after a taxi driver honked his horn



Nation Thailand
<https://www.nationthailand.com> › In Focus

Engineer gets 10 years in jail for road-rage killing of boy

Sep 27, 2561 BE — The case has received huge media coverage since a vide... **rage** incident first appeared on social media in February 2017, ...



Webike
<https://thai.webike.net/news/vid...> · Translate this page

Tampa Driver Purposely Runs Over Bike And Riders

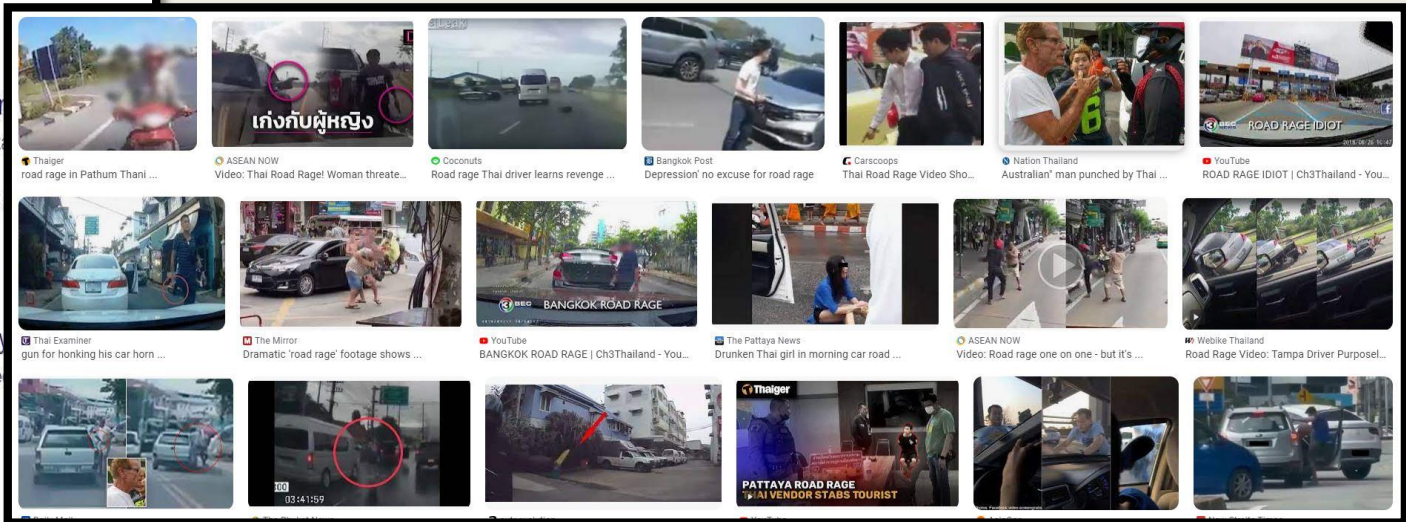
Jun 1, 2559 BE — Yesterday, in the Tampa area, a **road rage** incident went off the hook as the driver of the car in the **video** below rammed his car into a ...



Mirror
<https://www.mirror.co.uk> › ... › World news › Road rage

Man turns himself in after shooting British pensioner ...

Jan 7, 2566 BE — A property developer has admitted shooting dead a British pensioner in a **road rage** row in **Thailand**. Neil Roger, 70, bled to death on the ...



PREP SEVEN

PUT YOUR PHONE AWAY!

1. **You Are Far More Likely To Get In An Accident**
2. **You're More Likely To Be Found At Fault For An Accident**



Truck driver who caused fiery pile-up that killed five people was on TIK TOK while driving 68mph in 55mph construction zone in Arizona - and now faces a slew of charges including homicide



Danny C. Tiner, 36, was arrested at his home on multiple charges connected to a fiery crash in January, which resulted

PREP SEVEN

PUT YOUR PHONE AWAY!

3. You're More Likely To Cause An Accident

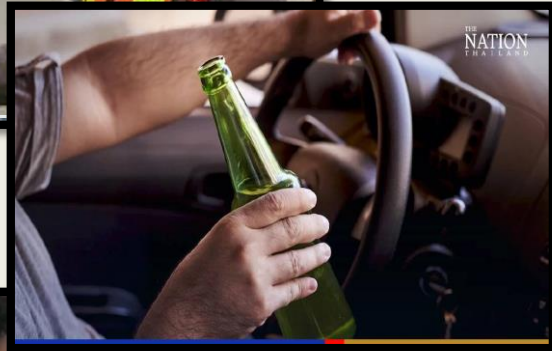
PREP EIGHT DOCUMENTATION!

1. Get and Carry
2. You never know when or where or if.....



PREP NINE

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!



1. New legislation in Thailand means that people caught **drink driving** more than once will go to **jail**, facing up to **two years in prison and/or a fine of between 50,000 and 100,000 baht**.
2. First time offenders faces a maximum one-year prison sentence and/or a fine of between 5,000 and 20,000 baht.

The harsher punishments are intended to act as a DUI deterrent to reduce the overall number of deaths on Thailand's dangerous roads



PREP TEN

QUESTION YOUR SANITY!

“the state of having a healthy mind and not being mentally ill or having an unconscious desire for one's own death.”

Although you should not forget international traffic rules, in order to stay safe **you have to adapt to the local situation** and you will soon find that a lot of proper **INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC RULES ALMOST DON'T APPLY** or can even bring about more risks in **THAI-STYLE TRAFFIC!**

**LASTLY, IF YOU ARE
WONDERING WHY THAI
DRIVERS DRIVE RECKLESSLY,
REALIZE THAT**

**YOUR LIFE TO YOU IS
PERHAPS MORE
PRECIOUS THAN
THEIR LIVES TO THEM**

Accidents happen, the cycle of life goes on.

