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Driving in Malaysia is a nerve-wracking experience

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I AM an Englishman married to a Malaysian for some 10 years now, and I have been a frequent visitor to your country between 1989 and 2001. I have seen many wonderful changes to Malaysia and must congratulate the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir (Mohamad) and his ministers on their achievements, which I'm sure benefit all Malaysians.

I have achieved many years of accident-free driving in Britain. However, when I hire a car in Malaysia, I have to take on a whole new attitude. Drivers seem to think they are invincible and immortal; some drivers, I should say most drivers, put themselves first and don't have any road manners at all.

They overtake and cross over double lines, they pass you on the left instead of the right hand side of you; they squeeze through using the road shoulder then cut across the front of your car which causes you to brake sharply and cringe, thinking "Can the driver behind me stop and avoid an accident?"

Talking to Malaysians I've found that they only laugh at the small fines imposed on them. I've also gathered from Malaysians that it is very difficult to find the right turn-off point on expressways and that they go around in circles trying to get where they are going (especially in darkness).

I couldn't believe this until I had a similar experience trying to get from Central Market (in Kuala Lumpur) to Ipoh. I can only suggest that the highway authorities have a serious look at the signs (or lack of them) within the city limits to guide motorists to the motorways (expressways).

The colour of these signs should be different from the usual "Green" signs that I see. Please also take a look at where signs are placed: from experience I find that they are too near to the turn-off or branch roads and negotiating a change of lane, so late, is encouraging an accident for many motorists.