

WORDS

1. Vehicles and similar

Refers to vehicles and streetcars.

2. Vehicles

Refers to automobiles, mopeds, light vehicles, and trolley buses.

- ▶ A trolley bus is a type of vehicle used for transporting sightseers. In Japan they travel on dedicated roads (Between Murodo and Daikanbo, Toyama Prefecture) and do not use public access roads. Consequently, material regarding trolley buses is not included in this book.



3. Automobiles

An automobile is a self-propelled vehicle that does not need to follow tracks or overhead wires, or is a vehicle with specific automatic operation. The term “automobile” does not apply to mopeds, light vehicles, small-sized vehicles for movement, vehicles for those with disabilities, remote control small-sized vehicles and wheeled walkers, baby carriages or similar (“wheeled walkers, etc.”).

4. Mopeds

Refers to two-wheeled vehicles with a total engine displacement of 50 cc or less or rated motor output of 0.60 kW or less, and to vehicles with three or more wheels with a total engine displacement of 20 cc or less or rated motor output of 0.25 kW or less (50 cc or less or 0.60 kW or less for vehicles with three or more wheels if the distance between the left and right wheels is 0.5 meters or less and the vehicle does not have an enclosed cab). The term “moped” does not apply to light vehicles, small-sized vehicles for movement, vehicles for those with disabilities, remote control small-sized vehicles, wheeled walkers or similar.

5. Minicars

Refers to regular motor vehicles with an engine displacement of 50 cc or less or rated motor output of 0.60 kW or less.

6. Light vehicles

Refers to bicycles (including “hybrid” bicycles equipped with a low-output electric motor), carts, trailers, sleds, and horses and cattle. (Including self-propelled vehicles like electric carriers legally defined. Wheelers for those with disabilities, wheeled walkers or similar are treated as pedestrians.)

7. Bicycles

Refers to vehicles with two or more wheels that are powered by the rider (including “hybrid” bicycles equipped with a low-output motor). The term “bicycle” does not apply to wheelers for those with disabilities, kiddie cars and buggies, wheeled walkers, or similar.

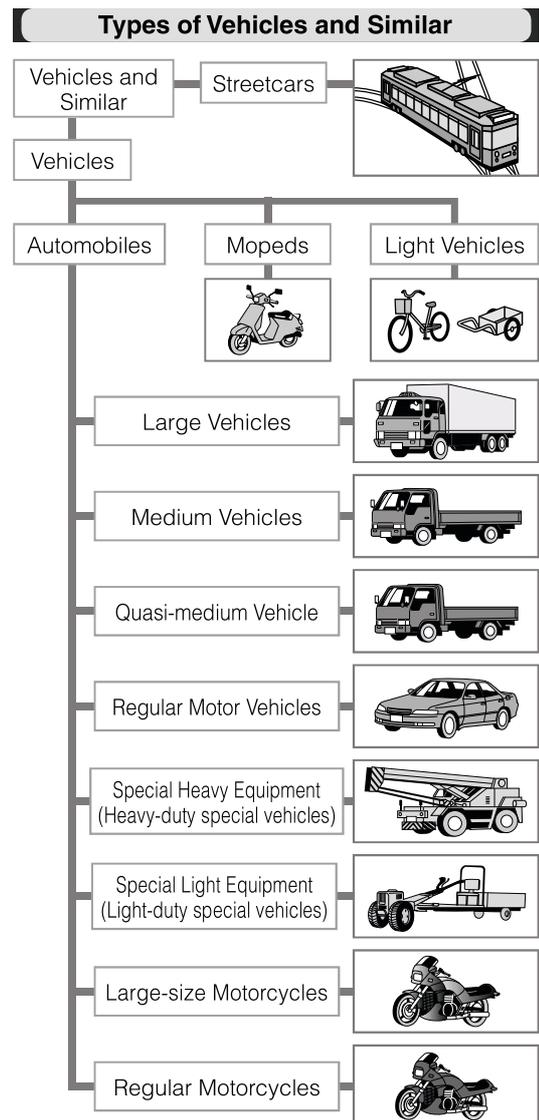
8. Remote control small-sized vehicles

Among small-sized vehicles using a motor that are made to proceed by remote control for the purpose of carrying people or goods, refers to vehicles meeting set standards of body size, construction, device, etc.

In this textbook, in the case where there is no particular explanation, it refers to vehicles proceeding along the road by remote control operation.

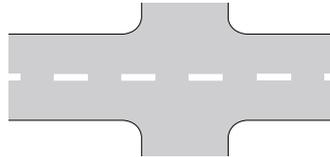
9. Streetcars (Trams)

Refers to vehicles that run on rails in the road.



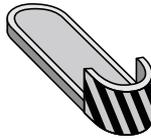
23. Road with right of way

A road marked with the “right of way” sign shown below or one for which the center line markings or vehicular lanes continue uninterrupted through the intersection.

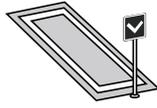


24. Safety zone

A raised area, or an area indicated by traffic signs and pavement markings, in the middle of the road for the purpose of ensuring the safety of passengers boarding or disembarking from streetcars, or pedestrians crossing the street.



Raised safety zone



Safety zone indicated by traffic signs and pavement markings

25. Vehicular lane

An area indicated by road markings as the part of the road designated for the passage of vehicles.

26. Exclusive lane

Part of the vehicular lane indicated by traffic signs and pavement markings as designated for the exclusive use of a particular type of vehicle.



27. Streetcar track

Part of the road required for the passage of streetcars, and consists of the area between the rails and an area 0.61 meters wide on either side of them.

28. Signal

Traffic signals are electrical lamps used to regulate the flow of traffic on roads.

29. Traffic sign

Signs are used to display regulations and other indications related to the flow of traffic on the roads.



30. Pavement marking

Pavement markings are lines, symbols, letters, etc., formed on the road using paint, rivets, or similar used to display regulations and other indications related to the flow of traffic on the roads.



31. Drive

The control of a vehicle or streetcar on the road (not including the case of specific automatic operation).

32. Specific automatic operation

Refers to operating an automobile using an automatic operation device necessary under conditions of use set beforehand. (Automatic operation device in this case is limited to one with a feature that can stop the automobile automatically and safely when the automobile is in bad state of repair or has deviated from conditions of use.)

33. Park

The situation where the vehicle is stopped continuously in order to wait for passengers or cargo, or to load or unload cargo or for other reasons such as breakdowns (not including cases where the vehicle is stopped in order to allow passengers to get in or out, or where the vehicle is stopped in order to load or unload cargo for five minutes or less), and to the situation where the vehicle is stopped and the driver has left the vehicle and is therefore unavailable to drive it. (not including cases where the vehicle is stopped during specific automatic operation.)

34. Stop

The situation where the vehicle is stopped but the term “park” does not apply.

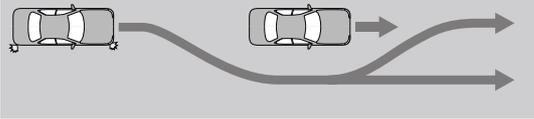
35. Slow down

A speed at which it is possible to stop the vehicle immediately (in general, a speed at which the distance from the point where the brake is applied to the point where the vehicle stops is one meter or less, or a speed of 10 km/h or less).

WORDS

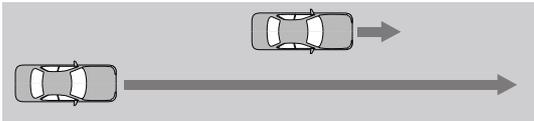
36. Overtake

When a vehicle changes lanes to pass a vehicle traveling ahead.



37. Pass

When a vehicle does not change lanes to pass a vehicle traveling ahead.



38. Traffic pollution

Air pollution, as well as excessive noise and vibration, caused by road traffic that has a deleterious effect on human health and the natural environment.

39. Pedestrian

A person who traverses the road on foot.

Pedestrians (including types of vehicles treated as pedestrians)

Persons walking on the road

Persons traversing in small-sized vehicles for movement

Persons traversing in wheelers for those with disabilities

Persons operating remote control small-sized vehicles without using remote control

Persons traversing in kiddie cars and buggies

Persons traversing using wheeled walkers, baby carriages, shopping carts, etc.

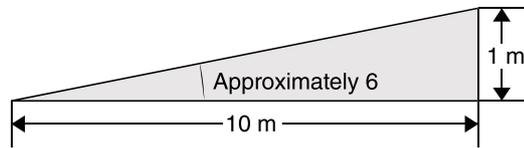
Persons traversing in vehicles for using while walking

Persons walking by pushing motorcycles, mopeds, two- or three-wheeled bicycles, or other vehicles that meet the standards set by law.

(not including persons pushing motorcycles or mopeds with the engine running, with sidecars, and towing by other vehicles.)

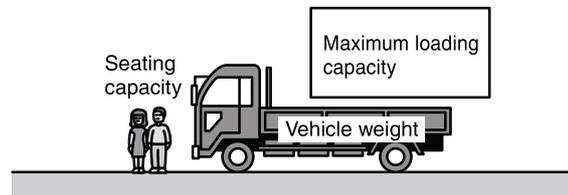
40. Steep slope

Generally, a steep slope is defined as a slope with an incline of 10% (about 6°) or more.



41. Gross Vehicle Weight

Gross vehicle weight (usually expressed in kilograms) = vehicle weight + maximum loading capacity + weight of seating capacity (assuming a weight of 55 kilograms per passenger).



42. Total displacement

The total displacement is a figure used to express the size of the engine. It is usually expressed in cubic centimeters (cc). The larger the total displacement the greater the engine horsepower and torque.

43. Rated motor output

The rated motor output is a figure used to express the output of a vehicle driven by a motor. It is usually expressed in kilowatts (kW).

● Interpretation of Numerical Expressions as Used in this Book

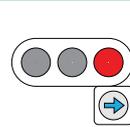
- ① XX or more: Includes the value stated and those larger. (Example: 5 or more = 5, 6, 7 ...)
- ② XX or less: Includes the value stated and those smaller. (Example: 5 or less = 5, 4, 3 ...)
- ③ More than XX: Includes values larger than but excluding that stated. (Example: More than 5 = 6, 7, 8 ...)
- ④ Less than XX: Includes values smaller than but excluding that stated. (Example: Less than 5 = 4, 3, 2 ...)

1 Types of Signals and Their Meanings

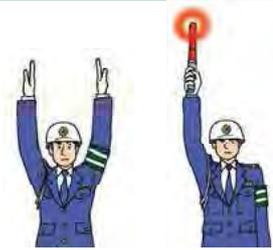
RT Law 7

1 Obeying Traffic Signals

Pedestrians, remote control small-sized vehicles as well as vehicles and similar¹ traveling on roads must obey signals displayed by traffic signals as well as hand signals or lamp signals displayed by police officers or traffic wardens.



Signals displayed by traffic signals



Hand signals or lamp signals displayed by police officers or traffic wardens

*1
Vehicles and similar...
This phrase refers to vehicles and streetcars.

Enforcement Ordinance 2

2 Types of Signals and Their Meanings

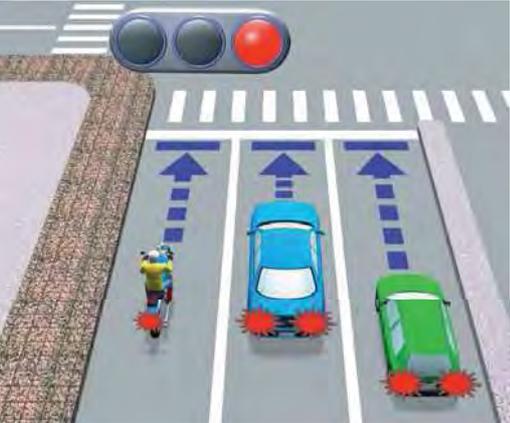
Traffic signals have meaning only for traffic facing them directly. Hence, pedestrians, remote control small-sized vehicles and vehicles and similar must obey the traffic signals directly in front of them.

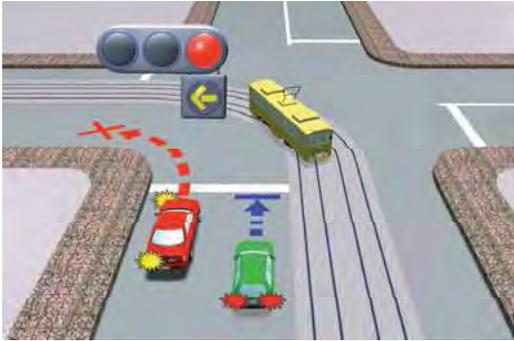
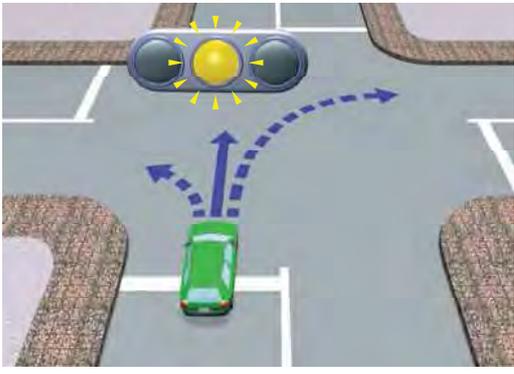
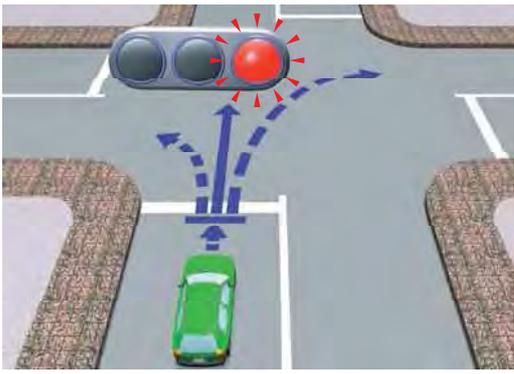


Signal Type	Signal Meaning
<p>Green Light</p> <p>• Right turn method for light vehicles and mopeds making two-step right turns</p> <p>Proceed to opposite side and change direction.</p> <p>Proceed when facing signal turns green.</p>	<p>① Pedestrians and remote control small-sized vehicles You may proceed.</p> <p>② Vehicles (except for light vehicles) and streetcars You may² proceed straight ahead or make a left or right turn. Note that mopeds performing a right turn using the two-step method³ should proceed straight ahead to the point where they will turn to the right, change direction at that point, and then wait for the facing signal to turn green.</p> <p>③ Light vehicles (bicycles, carts) You may proceed straight ahead or make a left turn. To make a right turn, proceed straight ahead to the point where you will turn to the right, change direction at that point, and then wait for the facing signal to turn green.</p>

*2
You may...
A green signal does not mean “you must proceed.” It means that “you may proceed” if the status of pedestrians and other vehicles in the street permits it.

*3
Right turn using the two-step method
Mopeds may use either the “two-step method” or the “direct turn method” to execute right turns. Refer to page 68 for details.

Signal Type	Signal Meaning
<p>● Yellow Light</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> ① Pedestrians and remote control small-sized vehicles You must not begin to cross the street. Pedestrians and remote control small-sized vehicles in the process of crossing the street must immediately either finish crossing to the other side or return to the side they started from. ② Vehicles and streetcars You must not proceed forward from the stopping position. However, if you are already near the stopping position when the signal changes to yellow and are not able to stop safely^{*1}, you may proceed without stopping.
<p>● Red Light</p>  <p>● Vehicles in the process of making a right or left turn</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> ① Pedestrians and remote control small-sized vehicles You must not cross the street. ② Vehicles and streetcars You must not proceed beyond the stop line. ③ Vehicles and streetcars already turning left within the intersection You may continue to proceed even if the signal on the left is red. ④ Vehicles and streetcars already turning right within the intersection You may continue to proceed even if the signal on the right is red. In this situation, the vehicle or streetcar must not obstruct the progress of oncoming vehicles or streetcars proceeding in accordance with the green light. However, light vehicles and mopeds making right turns using the two-step method must stop at the point where they turn to the right while the signal on the right is red. <p><small>*1</small> Not able to stop safely</p> <p>This refers to situations where there is a danger that applying the brakes suddenly could result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another vehicle colliding with your vehicle from behind. • Your vehicle skidding or rolling over. • A hazardous situation for the passengers in your vehicle.

Signal Type	Signal Meaning
<p>● Green Arrow</p> 	<p>① Vehicles</p> <p>You may proceed in the direction indicated by the arrow. (If the green arrow is indicating right, you may also make a U-turn.) However, if the green arrow is indicating right, light vehicles and mopeds making right turns using the two-step method may not proceed.</p>
<p>● Yellow Arrow</p> 	<p>① Streetcars</p> <p>Streetcars may proceed in the direction indicated by the arrow. The yellow arrow signal applies to streetcars only. Pedestrians, remote control small-sized vehicles and vehicles may not proceed.</p>
<p>● Flashing Yellow Light</p> 	<p>① Pedestrians, remote control small-sized vehicles, vehicles, and streetcars</p> <p>You may proceed while exercising due caution with regards to other traffic.</p>
<p>● Flashing Red Light</p> 	<p>① Pedestrians and remote control small-sized vehicles</p> <p>You may proceed while exercising due caution with regards to other traffic.</p> <p>② Vehicles and streetcars</p> <p>After stopping at the stopping position, you may proceed after checking to ensure it is safe to do so.</p>

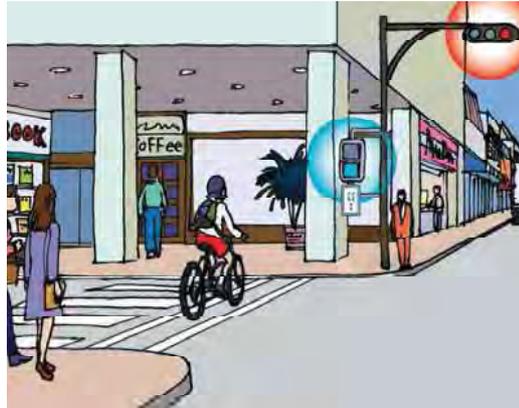
● **Signals for Specific Types of Traffic**

Some traffic signals apply only to specific types of traffic, and this is indicated by the design of the signal or on a signboard.

① **Signals with Human Outlines**

Traffic signals having signals with human outlines apply only to pedestrian traffic, remote control small-sized vehicles and to bicycles that access pedestrian crossings.

Also, if the traffic signal is accompanied by a signboard indicating “pedestrians and bicycles only¹”, pedestrians and other bicyclists must also obey the signals.



Some traffic signals for pedestrians only (or for pedestrians and bicycles only) change to green before the traffic signal for vehicles. You should be aware of this and take care before proceeding.

* 1 Signboard showing “pedestrians and bicycles only”

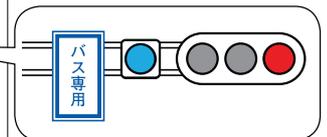
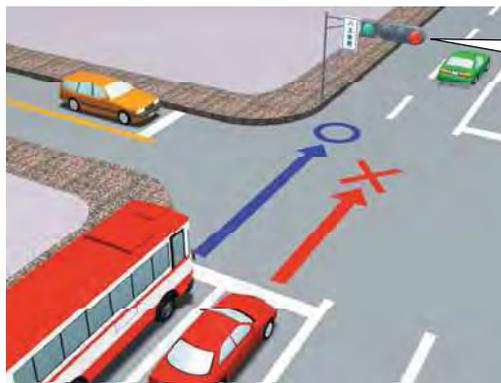


● **Types of Signals with Human Outlines and Their Meanings**

	Green Light	Flashing Green Light	Red Light
Signal Type			
Signal Meaning	Pedestrians and remote control small-sized vehicles may proceed. Regular bicycles proceeding across the pedestrian crossing may proceed straight ahead or turn left. Riders of regular bicycles who wish to turn right may go straight ahead to the point where they will turn right and change direction at that point.	Pedestrians and remote control small-sized vehicles may not begin to cross the street. Pedestrians and remote control small-sized vehicles in the process of crossing the street must immediately either finish crossing to the other side or return to the side they started from. Riders of regular bicycles who wish to access the pedestrian crossing may not begin to cross the street.	Pedestrians and remote control small-sized vehicles may not cross the street. Riders of regular bicycles who wish to access the pedestrian crossing may not begin to cross the street.

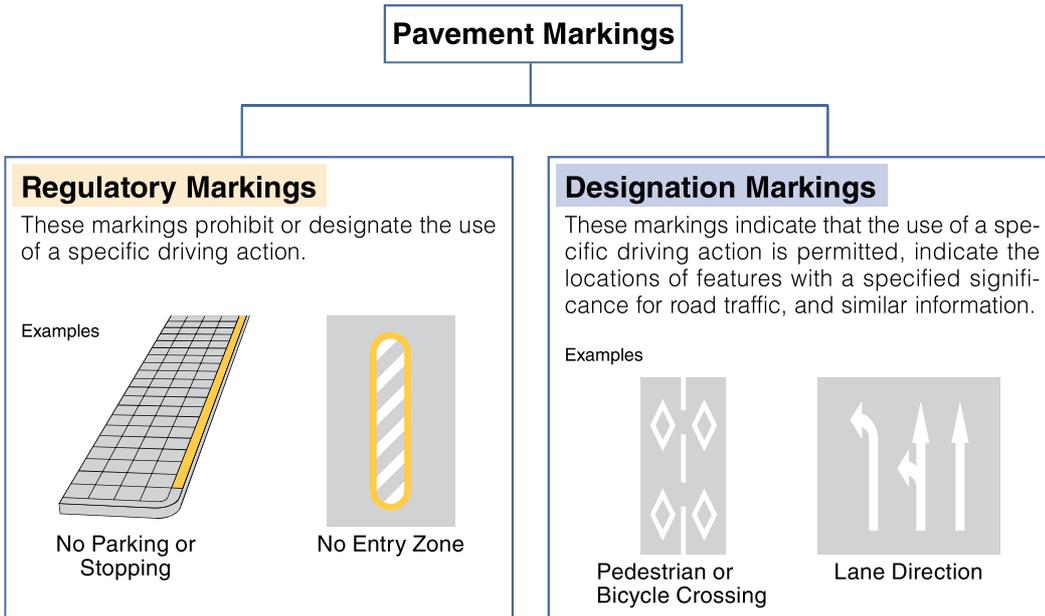
② **Signals with “Buses Only” Signboards**

If a traffic signal is accompanied by a signboard specifying a type of vehicle, such as “buses only,” that signal must be obeyed only by the type of vehicle indicated by the signboard.



(2) Pavement Markings

Pavement markings are lines, symbols, letters, etc., formed on the road using paint, rivets, etc. There are two types of pavement markings: **regulatory markings** and **designation markings**.



3 Types of Traffic Signs and Pavement Markings and Their Meanings

The types of traffic signs and pavement markings and their meanings are listed below.

① Regulatory Signs

<p>1. Road Closed</p>  <p>The road is closed to vehicles and street-cars as well as to pedestrians and remote control small-sized vehicles.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(301)</p>	<p>4. Closed to All Automobiles Except Two-Wheeled Vehicles</p>  <p>The road is closed to all automobiles other than two-wheeled vehicles (large-size and regular motorcycles or similar).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(304)</p>
<p>2. Closed to All Vehicles</p>  <p>The road is closed to vehicles (automobiles, mopeds, and light vehicles).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(302)</p>	<p>5. Closed to Large-Size Trucks, etc.</p>  <p>The road is closed to large-size trucks, specified medium trucks and special heavy equipment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(305)</p>
<p>3. No Entry for Vehicles</p>  <p>Posted in locations such as exits from one way streets and indicates that vehicles may not enter from the direction facing the sign.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(303)</p>	<p>6. Closed to Trucks Carrying Loads in Excess of the Maximum Weight Specified on the Sign</p>  <p>The road is closed to trucks carrying a load in excess of the maximum weight specified on the auxiliary sign and special heavy equipment.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: right;">(305-2)</p>



20. No Parking



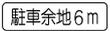
Vehicles must not park.

(316)

21. Parking Space Designated



Vehicles may not park unless they leave an open space to the right of the vehicle as indicated on the auxiliary sign.



(317)

22. Time-Limited Parking Zone



Indicates a zone where the same vehicle may park continuously for up to the time limit indicated. Vehicles are not permitted to park for more than the duration indicated. (In this case, vehicles may park for up to 60 minutes between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.)

(318)

These signs indicate that a time-limited parking zone equipped with parking meters or with a machine for issuing "parking tickets" (vouchers allowing one to park in a designated location for a specific length of time) is located in the direction indicated by the arrow.



23. Dangerous Substances Prohibited



The road is closed to vehicles transporting dangerous substances such as flammable, explosive, poisonous, or deleterious materials.

(319)

24. Maximum Weight Limit



Vehicles with a total weight (total of vehicle weight, cargo weight, and weight of passengers) exceeding the indicated weight limit may not proceed.

(320)

25. Maximum Height Limit



Vehicles with a total aboveground height (including the height of any cargo) exceeding the indicated height limit may not proceed.

(321)

26. Maximum Width Limit



Vehicles with a width (including the width of any cargo) exceeding the indicated width limit may not proceed.

(322)

27. Maximum Speed Limit



Vehicles and streetcars must not exceed the indicated speed limit. However, the following types of vehicle must not exceed the maximum speed designated for their vehicle types in the Road Traffic Law Enforcement Ordinance even if the indicated speed limit is higher.

- ① Mopeds
- ② Vehicles other than towing vehicles that are towing another vehicle.

(323)

28. Maximum Speed Limit for the Type of Vehicle Designated on the Sign



The type of vehicle indicated on the auxiliary sign must not exceed the indicated speed limit.



(323-2)

29. Minimum Speed Limit



Vehicles must not proceed at less than the indicated speed.

(324)

30. Automobiles Only



Designates a National Expressway or a motorway.

(325)

31. Bicycles Only



① Designates a bicycle path or a dedicated road for bicycles.

② Access by vehicles other than regular bicycles and by pedestrians and remote control small-sized vehicles is prohibited.

(325-2)

32. Bicycles and Pedestrians, etc. Only



- ① Designates a dedicated road for bicycles and pedestrians, and that access by other than regular bicycles and pedestrians is prohibited.
- ② Designates a pedestrian path where access by regular bicycles is permitted.
- ③ Designates a sidewalk where access by regular bicycles is permitted.

(325-3)

33. Pedestrians, etc. Only



- ① Designates a dedicated road for pedestrians (a road provided for use by pedestrians exclusively).
- ② Designates a pedestrian path.

(325-4)

34. Specially permitted vehicles only

Indicates that the facility allows the vehicles shown on the sign to stop here, with the permission of the relevant road authority.



(City bus, chartered bus, etc.)



(Taxi)



(Truck)

(325-5-A~C)

35. Specially permitted vehicles only (combination)



Indicates that the facility allows the vehicles shown on the sign to stop here, with the permission of the relevant road authority.

(325-6)

36. Emergency wide-area disaster management vehicles only



Indicates a designated parking lot where no vehicles or persons other than those approved by the relevant road authority are allowed to use that parking lot during an emergency wide-area disaster management.

(325-7)

37. One Way



Vehicles are not permitted to proceed in a direction opposite that indicated by the arrow.

(326-A · B)

38. Bicycles One-Way



Bicycles are not permitted to proceed in a direction opposite that indicated by the arrow.

(326-2-A · B)

39. Lane Designation



Vehicles of the type(s) indicated on the sign must travel in the lane indicated.

(327)

40. Lane for Specific Types of Vehicles



Large-size trucks, specified medium trucks and special heavy equipment must travel in the leftmost lane.

(327-2)

41. Lane for Towing Vehicles on National Expressway



Towing vehicles must travel in the lane indicated by the sign.

(327-3)

42. Exclusive Lane



Indicates a lane reserved for the type of vehicle indicated.

(327-4)

43. Exclusive Lane for Regular Bicycles



Indicates a lane reserved for regular bicycles.

(327-4-2)

44. Route Bus Priority Lane



Indicates a lane where route buses have priority.

(327-5)

45. Designated Lane for Towing Vehicles on Motorway



Towing vehicles must travel in the leftmost lane.

(327-6)

① Regulatory Signs



46. Lane Direction Designations

Indicates the directions in which traffic in each lane must proceed from the intersection.



(327-7-A~D)

47. Two-Step Right Turn for Mopeds



When executing right turns, mopeds must proceed along the side of the intersection and use the two-step right turn method.

(327-8)

48. Direct Right Turn for Mopeds



When executing right turns, mopeds must move to the center of the roadway beforehand (to the right side of the roadway if the road is one way) and use the direct right turn method.

(327-9)

49. Roundabout - Drive Around in Clockwise Direction



At roundabout vehicles must drive around in clockwise direction.

(327-10)

50. Parallel Parking



Vehicles must park parallel to the edge of the road.

(327-11)

51. Perpendicular Parking



Vehicles must park perpendicular to the edge of the road.

(327-12)

52. Diagonal Parking



Vehicles must park at an oblique angle to the edge of the road.

(327-13)

53. Sound Horn



Indicates a location where vehicles and streetcars are required to sound their horns.

(328)

54. Sounding Zone



Indicates a zone where vehicles and streetcars are required to sound their horns.

(328-2)

55. Slow Down



Vehicles and streetcars must slow down.

(329-A · B)

56. Give Way



Indicates that vehicles on the cross street at the upcoming intersection have the right of way and that vehicles and streetcars must slow down and yield to cross traffic.

(329-2-A · B)

57. Stop



Vehicles and streetcars must come to a stop immediately before the intersection (if there is a stop line, immediately before the stop line).

(330-A · B)

58. Closed to Pedestrians, etc.



Pedestrians and remote control small-sized vehicles must not proceed.

(331)

59. Crossing by Pedestrians, etc. Prohibited



Pedestrians and remote control small-sized vehicles must not cross the road.

(332)

⑤ Auxiliary Signs

15. Direction



(511)

Indicates the direction of the route, facility, or location specified by the main sign.

16. Place Name

小諸市
本町

(512)

Indicates the name of the place where the main sign is installed.

17. Start Point

始点

(513)

Indicates the starting point of the road specified by the main sign.

18. End Point

終点

(514)

Indicates the ending point of the road specified by the main sign.

Point

Types of Vehicles and Abbreviations

Vehicle types are sometimes referred to using the abbreviations listed below.

Abbreviation	Type of Vehicle
Large size	Large vehicles
Large size, etc.	Large vehicles, Specified medium vehicles, Special heavy equipment
Medium size	Medium vehicles
Specified medium	Specified medium vehicles
Quasi-medium	Quasi-medium vehicles
Regular	Regular motor vehicle
Motorcycle	Large-size motorcycle or regular motorcycle
Compact	Regular motor vehicle 3.40 meters or less in length, 1.48 meters or less in width, and 2.00 meters or less in height (and in the case of a motor vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine limited to one having an engine displacement of 660 cc or less)
Moped	Moped
Two-wheeler	Two-wheeled motor vehicle or moped
Small two-wheeler	Small two-wheeled motor vehicle or moped
Bicycle	Regular bicycle
Remote control small-size	Remote control small-sized vehicles

Abbreviation	Type of Vehicle
Passenger	Motor vehicle with a structure designed exclusively for transporting passengers
Bus	Large motor vehicle for transporting passengers and specified medium passenger vehicles
Large bus	Large passenger vehicle with capacity of 30 passengers or more
Microbus	Large passenger vehicle with capacity of between 11–29 passengers and specified medium passenger vehicles
Regular passenger	Regular passenger vehicle
Large cargo	Large vehicles other than large passenger vehicles
Large cargo, etc.	Large vehicles (excluding large passenger vehicles), specified medium vehicles (excluding specified medium passenger vehicles), and special heavy equipment
Medium cargo	Medium vehicles other than medium passenger vehicles
Quasi-medium cargo	Quasi-medium vehicles other than Quasi-medium passenger vehicles
Specified medium cargo	Specified medium vehicles other than specified medium passenger vehicles
Vehicle with Permit Mark	Vehicles Displaying Parking Permit Mark for Senior Drivers, etc.

Note: Small two-wheeled motor vehicles are regular motorcycles with a displacement of 125 cc or less, or rated motor output of 1.00 kW or less.

Note: Specified medium vehicles are medium vehicles with a gross weight of 8 tons to below 11 tons, a maximum payload of 5 tons to below 6.5 tons, or a seating capacity of 11 to 29 passengers.

Signboards

In addition to the traffic signs listed above, the following types of signboards are also used.

Signboards on Traffic Lights for Controlling Designated Traffic

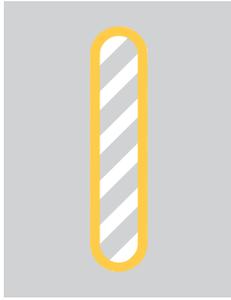


Signboards Indicating Machine for Issuing "Parking Tickets" (Vouchers allowing one to park in a designated location for a specific length of time)



⑥ Regulatory Markings

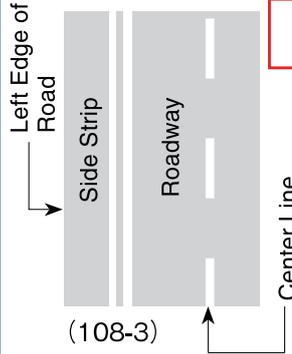
7. No Entry Zone



(106)

Vehicles must not enter the area defined by the marking.

11. Side Strip for Pedestrians



(108-3)

(1) Pedestrians may use this part of the road.

(2) Vehicles may not enter it to park or stop.

8. No Stopping Zone



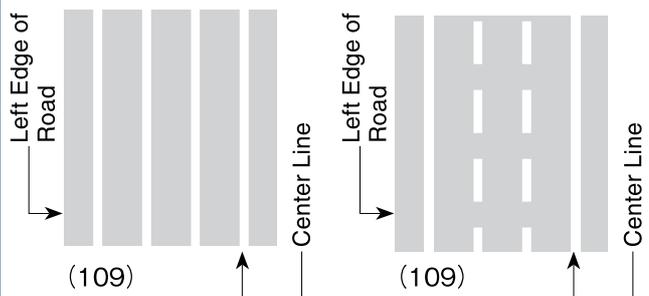
(107)

Vehicles and streetcars must not enter the area defined by the marking if there is a danger that they may be forced to stop within it due to conditions ahead of them.

12. Vehicular Lanes

(1) Vehicular Lanes on Roads Other Than the Main Through Lanes of National Expressway

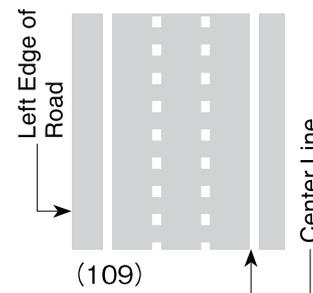
① Painted Pavement Markings



(109)

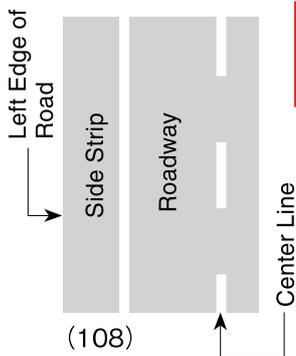
(109)

② Pavement Markings Consisting of Rivets, Stones, or Similar



(109)

9. Side Strip

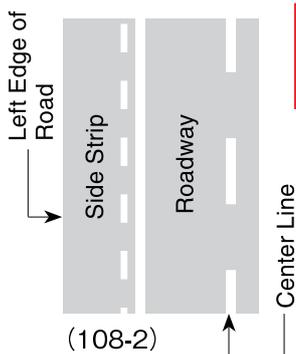


(108)

(1) Pedestrians and light vehicles may use this part of the road.

(2) If the side strip is wide (more than 0.75 meters in width), vehicles may enter it to park or stop provided they leave an open space of 0.75 meters or more left side of the vehicle.

10. No Parking or Stopping Side Strip

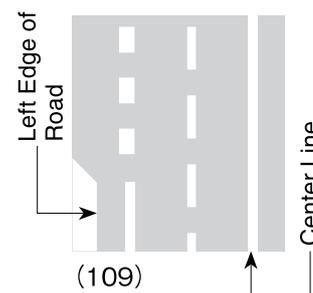


(108-2)

(1) Pedestrians and light vehicles may use this part of the road.

(2) Vehicles may not enter it to park or stop.

(2) Vehicular Lanes on the Main Through Lanes of National Expressway



(109)



1. Pedestrian Crossing (Crosswalk)

Indicate pedestrian crossings.



(201)

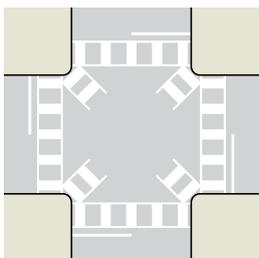


(201)

2. Diagonal Crossing Permitted

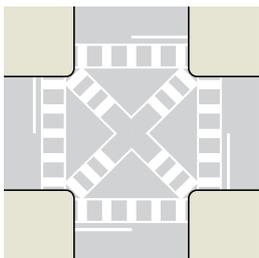
Indicate that pedestrians and remote control small-sized vehicles may cross the intersection diagonally.

(1) Permitted During Designated Hours

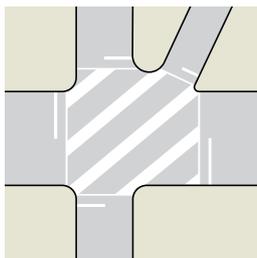


(201-2)

(2) Permitted Throughout the Day



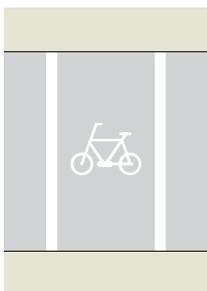
(201-2)



(201-2)

3. Bicycle Crossing Lane

Indicate a bicycle crossing lane.



(201-3)

4. Use Right Part of Road

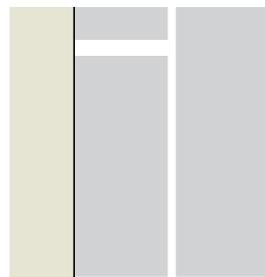
Indicate that it is permissible, on a road with a steep incline, to pass the center line and enter the right part when executing a turn.



(202)

5. Stop Line

Indicates the position where vehicles must come to a stop.

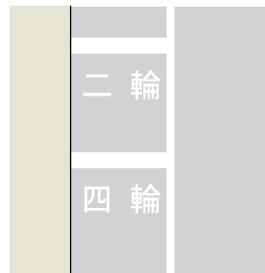


(203)

Center Line or Other Marking Showing Center of Road

6. Stop Lines for Two- and Four-Wheeled Vehicles

Indicate the positions where two- and three- or four-wheeled vehicles must come to a stop.

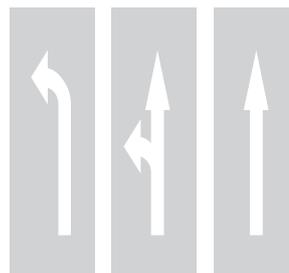


(203-2)

Center Line or Other Marking Showing Center of Road

7. Lane Direction

Indicate the directions in which traffic in each lane must proceed from the intersection.



(204)

I Basic Principles of Road Use and Exceptions to Them

* 1

Accessing the Sidewalk

Regular bicycles may access sidewalks in the following cases:

- ① When it is indicated on road signs, etc. that bicycles may access the sidewalk.
- ② When the bicycle is being ridden by a child under thirteen years of age, by an elderly person aged 70 years or over or a person with a physical disability.
- ③ When traffic conditions make accessing the sidewalk unavoidable to ensure safety.

* 2

Regular bicycle

A bicycle with four wheels or less that is 1.9 meters or less in length and 0.6 meters or less in width with no sidecar or seat other than the rider's seat.

* 3

Locations adjacent to the road...

Refers to gasoline stations, warehouses, garages, parking lots, etc., located next to the road.

Note: Refer to page 56 for precautions when crossing over.

- ① On roads with separate roadway and sidewalks or side strips, vehicles must proceed in the **roadway**.¹ In addition, vehicles other than regular bicycles² may not use roads reserved for the use of bicycles and pedestrians. However, vehicles and vehicles other than regular bicycles may proceed in these areas of the road to cross it over when entering or leaving roadside locations, and in similar cases³.



Road With Sidewalk



Road With Side Strips

- ② Persons walking and pushing two-wheeled vehicles are treated as pedestrians, so they may make use of sidewalks, etc. (sidewalks and side strips). However, persons walking and pushing vehicles with the engine running, vehicles equipped with sidecars, or vehicles towing another vehicle are not treated as pedestrians and may not make use of sidewalks, etc.
- ③ Light vehicles may proceed on the side strip which set on left edge of road. However, light vehicles may not make use of the side strip in a manner that clearly impedes the passage of pedestrians or if the side strip is delineated by two solid white lines (side strip for pedestrians).

Quick Hint

Don't confuse the following!

On roads with sidewalks, the solid white line on the left edge of the roadway does not delineate the side strip. Instead, it is referred to as the "roadway outermost side line," and the part of the pavement between it and the edge of the sidewalk is considered part of the roadway for use by vehicles.

Left Edge of Road
Sidewalk
Roadway
Roadway Outermost Side Line

Point

Types of Side Strips

Side Strips	No Parking or Stopping Side Strips	Side Strips for Pedestrians
<p>Left Edge of Road</p> <p>Roadway</p>	<p>Left Edge of Road</p> <p>Roadway</p>	<p>Left Edge of Road</p> <p>Roadway</p>
May be used by pedestrians and light vehicles.	May be used by pedestrians and light vehicles.	May be used by pedestrians.

6 Areas Blocked to Traffic by Signs and Pavement Markings

RT Law 8 I

1 Areas Blocked to Traffic by Signs

Vehicles must not access roads closed to traffic by signs indicating “road closed,” “closed to all vehicles,” or “pedestrians, etc. only”.



Road Closed



Closed to All Vehicles



Pedestrians, etc. Only

2 Areas Blocked to Traffic by Pavement Markings or Similar

RT Law 17 VI

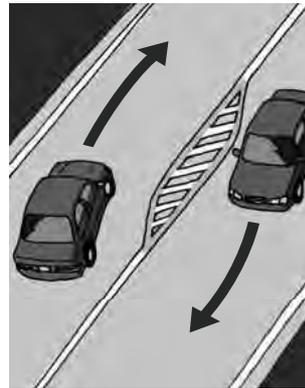
Vehicles must not access areas closed to traffic by pavement markings indicating “safety zone” or “no entry zone.”



Safety Zone Indicated by Raised Barriers



Safety Zone Indicated by Sign and Pavement Markings



No Entry Zone

3 Looking Out for Children and People with Disabilities

RT Law 71 (2), (2-2)

1 When Children or People with Disabilities are Passing in the Vicinity

In the following situations, the driver must **slow down or stop** to allow such persons to pass safely.

- ① When children are walking unattended.¹
- ② When a person is traveling in a wheelers for those with disabilities².
- ③ When a person is walking with a white or yellow cane.
- ④ When a person is walking with a guide dog for the blind.
- ⑤ In addition to the categories listed above, when people who have difficulty walking (pregnant women, people on crutches, senior citizens using canes or wheeled walkers³ or people with disabilities such as impaired sight or hearing, or physical handicaps) are passing.

*1

Walking unattended...

This means when children are unaccompanied by a person directly supervising them. Even when several children are walking together but there is no guardian around, it is said that the children are "walking unattended."

*2

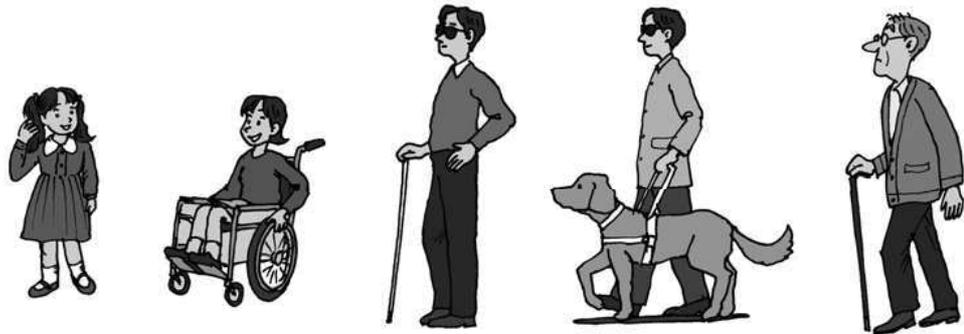
Wheeler for those with disabilities

Refers to wheelchairs, stand-up cars and all similar wheelers used for movement of those with disabilities.

*3

Wheeled walkers...

Equipment designed to assist the elderly to walk or move about. (Includes motorized walkers.)



Children can become absorbed in the object of their attention and suddenly dash into the road, or try to cross the road at unsuitable points due to a lack of judgment, so drivers must be especially careful when children are present.

Be aware that accidents involving senior citizens often occur when the pedestrian crosses just in front of or just behind a vehicle.

RT Law 71 (2-3)

2 When Passing a Stopped School or Kindergarten Bus

When passing a school or kindergarten bus that is stopped to let children on or off, the driver must **slow down** to ensure safety.

3 Cautions in the Vicinity of a School or School Route

When driving in the vicinity of a school, kindergarten, nursery school, or where a sign indicates a school route, children may suddenly dash into the road, so the driver should be especially careful.



通学路

School,
Kindergarten,
Nursery

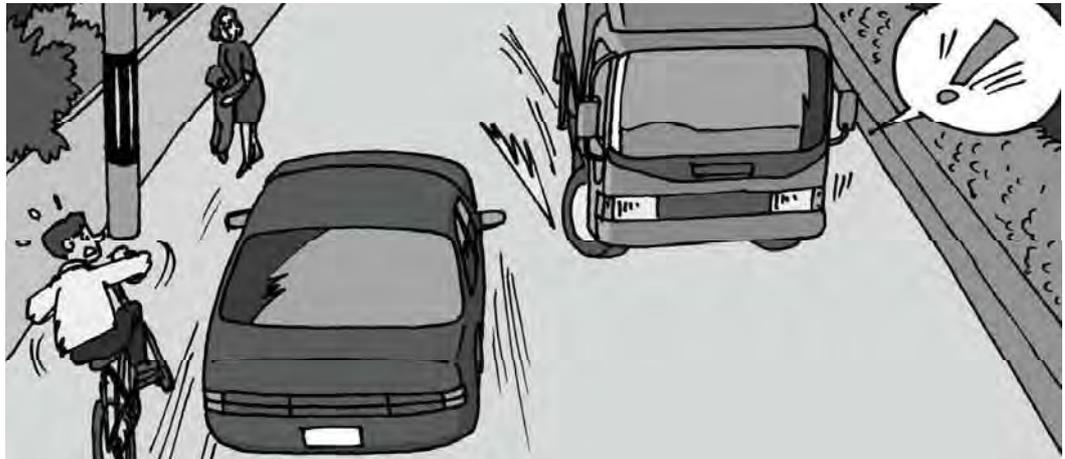
Quick Hint

The obligation of the school or kindergarten bus

When a school or kindergarten bus is stopped to pick up or drop off children, it is required to have its emergency lights flashing.

1 Keep Clearance to the Sides

● If you pass an oncoming vehicle in this manner...



It will put other traffic in danger along with yourself.

Quick Hint

If you see a remote control small-sized vehicle

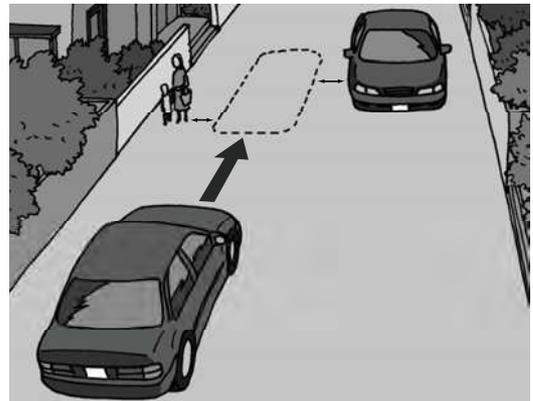
Remote control small-sized vehicles bear the following sign (Remote control small-sized vehicle mark).



Please take care when there is no one nearby operating it, or when you are passing near it as it may stop suddenly on the road.

When passing an oncoming vehicle, keep **a safe passing clearance** from the vehicle.

When there are pedestrians or bicycles in the vicinity, one must keep a safe distance from them too.



Keeping a safe clearance.

Point

When Keeping a Safe Passing Clearance will not be possible...

Instead of passing an oncoming vehicle where it would not be possible to keep a safe distance from a person riding a bicycle or walking, stop or reduce speed to let the oncoming vehicle pass.

It is important not to make selfish decisions such as “the oncoming vehicle will stop and let me pass,” or “I’ll be able to squeeze by that pedestrian or bicycle.”



3 Automated Vehicles

The automatic operation device is a device that performs all cognitive, prediction, judgment, and operation abilities required for driving on behalf of the driver under certain usage conditions. An automated vehicle is a vehicle equipped with an automatic operation device.

Before using the automatic operation device to drive¹; be sure to understand its content, performance, and usage correctly, and pay attention to these following points:

- ① Do not use the automatic operation device except under the specified usage conditions².
- ② While using the automatic operation device, you must immediately take notice of a request to take over the driving operation from the automatic operation device. Or, be sure to immediately notice any abnormality in the automated vehicle and be ready to take over the driving operation.³
- ③ While using the automatic operation device, if you notice a request to take over the driving operation from the automatic operation device or notice an abnormality in the automated vehicle, you must immediately check the surrounding situation and start the necessary driving operation.
- ④ An automated vehicle may be equipped with a system or device that supports the driver's safe driving, in addition to the automatic operation device. Such a system or device has different performance and usage. Always keep track of the system or device that is operating and drive properly without any overconfidence.



Do not drink or doze while using the automatic operation device.



Take over the driving operation immediately if there is a request.

* 1
“Specific automatic operation” does not count as driving. Refer to P.7 for details.

* 2
Use of the automatic operation device is subject to restrictions on road types, for example on national expressways only, and on weather-related conditions, for example in fair weather only.

* 3
The following acts are prohibited because you need to be ready to take over the driving operation:
Drinking, sleeping, or changing seats while driving

Quick Hint

If you see a vehicle displaying “Automatic operation in progress”..

This kind of vehicle is an automated vehicle using a specific automatic operation. In this case, there may be no driver, or the vehicle may stop suddenly. Please take sufficient care driving when you are passing near it.

Review

Mark each of the following statements true or false to check your comprehension of the preceding section.

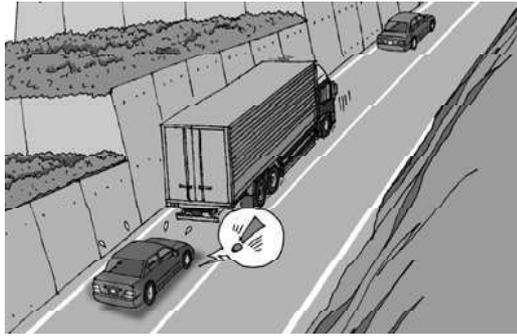
1. Because vehicles with automatic transmissions are less dangerous than those with manual transmissions, drivers can pay less attention to driving as long as they understand the basics of AT operation.
2. Putting an automatic transmission vehicle in neutral while traveling downhill is a way to save fuel.
3. Because automatic transmission two-wheeled vehicles do not have a clutch, there is a danger of sudden acceleration if the throttle is turned too quickly.
4. A driver using the automatic operation device may take a nap for a short period of time while driving.

▶▶▶ The correct answers are listed on the last page of the book.

(2) Stopping a vehicle on an uphill road

An individual must keep an appropriate distance between their vehicle and the vehicle ahead.

If one gets too close, the car ahead might roll backwards before moving forwards.

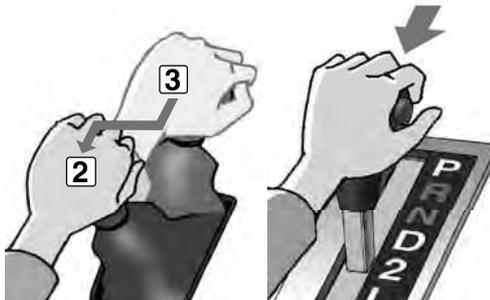


(3) How to use engine braking and the distance between vehicles on a downhill road

A An individual must use engine braking and the break pedal if necessary on a steep or long downhill slope. If one is driving a motor bike they must use both front and rear brakes.



Be careful not to put the engine in lower gear because the engine revolutions will greatly increase. Excessive use of the break pedal can cause a **fade** or **vapor lock effect**, which can severely damage a braking system and is very dangerous.



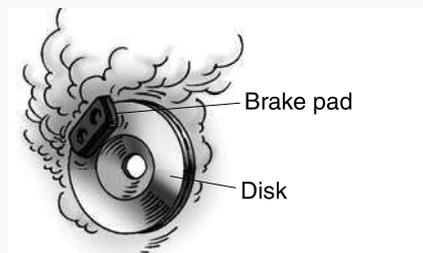
B On downward slopes, a longer distance between vehicles should be maintained, as vehicles pick up speed and require longer distances to halt.

Point

① Fade effect

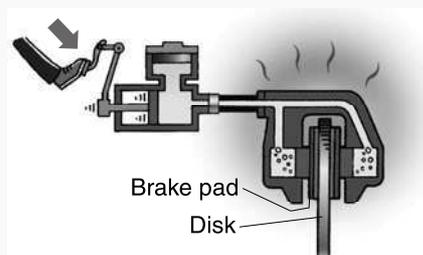
On a downhill road excessive use of the brake pedal or the two-wheeled vehicle's front and rear brakes can cause a fade effect. Brake pads and disks heat up causing a sharp decrease in friction, thus greatly reducing break effectiveness.

Drum brake systems are especially susceptible.



② Vapor lock effect

Excessive use of a foot brake or front and rear brakes can cause a vapor lock effect. The heat from heated brake pads and disks is conducted to the brake fluid causing bubbles. In such situations, the



- After stopping your car, listen to the earthquake information or traffic information by car radio for four-wheeled vehicles or other available ways for two-wheeled vehicles and act in accordance with the situation.
- If you do continue driving, watch out carefully for damage to roads, failed traffic signals and obstacles on the road.
- If you abandon your car, move it off road, if possible. If you have no choice but to leave it on the road, pull your car over to the left side of the road, stop the engine, leave the engine key in the ignition or in a visible location (such as the driver's seat), close the windows (on four-wheeled vehicles), leave the car unlocked and take all your valuables with you. When you pull the car over, do not park the car in a place where it will hinder people from evacuating or obstruct the implementation of disaster emergency measures.

(2) When a major earthquake happens when you are not driving

- Unless you need to escape from a tsunami, do not use a car to evacuate.
- If you need to use a car to escape from a tsunami, watch out carefully for damage to roads, failed traffic signals and obstacles on the road.

4 When Traffic Controls are Enforced Based on the Disaster Countermeasure Basic Act

In prefectures where a disaster has happened or is about to happen (including neighboring or close prefectures), if there is an urgent need to implement disaster emergency measures appropriately and smoothly, all the vehicles, except emergency vehicles, may be prohibited or restricted to pass, based on the disaster countermeasure basic act. Also, according to the Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness, the same applies to the period from the issuance of Declaration of a Nuclear Emergency Situation to the Declaration of the Cancellation of a Nuclear Emergency Situation.

If traffic is controlled, a driver of a general vehicle in the area where passage is prohibited (area or distance the traffic is controlled) has to take the following measures.

- Immediately move a car to the place where the traffic control is not implemented.
- If moving a car immediately is difficult, park it so as not to hinder emergency vehicles, such as parking along the left edge of the road.
- Follow the instructions of policemen and move or park a car.

If a car is hindering emergency vehicles from passing, policemen may order the driver of the car to take necessary measures. If the driver does not take the ordered measures or policemen cannot give an order due to the driver's absence, policemen themselves may take the measures. In this case, cars may get damaged due to unavoidable reasons. If policemen are not available, self-defense officials or firemen may do this instead.

Point**Duties of Those Responsible for Automobile Users or Driving Safety Supervisors****(1) Duties of Those Responsible for Automobile Users**

- ① Those responsible for automobile users must ensure that vehicle drivers obey traffic regulations and driving safety supervisors keep automobiles suitably maintained for safe driving. Driver services must also ensure that their drivers maintain the same responsibilities when providing their substitutional driving services.
- ② Unless there is a driving safety supervisor present, those responsible for the use of emergency vehicles such as fire engines as well as road maintenance trucks must provide drivers with the traffic safety education required for safe driving.
- ③ Those responsible for automobile users must ensure that required measures are taken for proper parking of the vehicle.
- ④ In the event that a vehicle driver has committed a speeding violation, or has driven a vehicle with excessive load, or has driven in a state of extreme exhaustion, the Public Safety Commission may give those responsible for the use of the vehicle instructions to take necessary steps to prevent the reoccurrence of the violation. If the driver repeats the violation despite the instructions, those responsible for automobile users may be penalized by temporary suspension of driving privileges and by being prevented to have other people drive the vehicle for a certain period time.

In addition, in the event that drivers of hired cars or accompanying automobiles of driving services commit speeding violation or illegal parking or stopping, or has driven a vehicle in a state of extreme exhaustion, the driving services may be instructed by the Public Safety Commission to take necessary steps to prevent the reoccurrence of the violation or may have business suspended.

- ⑤ In the event that those responsible for automobile users has been fined for unattended illegal parking before, and is fined again for the same violation by the Public Safety Commission, he/she may be penalized by temporary suspension of driving privileges and by being prevented to have other people drive the vehicle for a certain period time.
- ⑥ If the person responsible for the use of the vehicle has not paid the fine for leaving his/her vehicle illegally by due date, and is then reminded to pay the fine by the Public Safety Commission, he/she will have to present a document that proves that the fine for the violation, delinquent charge, and processing fee have been paid, in order to have a new Vehicle Inspection Certificate issued.

(2) Duties of Driving Safety Supervisors

- ① Businesses that have 5 or more automobiles (large-size motorcycles and regular motorcycles count as half a vehicle) or one or more automobiles with a seating capacity of 11 persons or more must appoint a driving safety supervisor to provide drivers with traffic safety instructions and handle other duties necessary for the safe driving of the automobiles. In addition, driver services must also appoint a driving safety supervisor in each place of business.

Businesses that make use of 20 or more automobiles (driver services: business that make use 10 or more automobiles) must appoint a designated number of deputy safety supervisors according to the number of automobiles in use.

- ② Driving safety supervisors must reliably carry out the following duties and ensure that drivers drive safely. Deputy driving safety supervisors must assist driving safety supervisors in carrying out the following duties:
 - Provide traffic safety instruction.
 - Determine whether or not drivers are obeying traffic regulations and whether or not drivers have the aptitude, appropriate knowledge and skills required for safe driving.
 - Take sufficient care to create action plans to prevent acts such as speeding, driving with an excessive load, driving while exhausted, and illegal parking. Illegal parking includes leaving vehicles in a place far removed from the driver where they cannot be moved quickly. (This also applies to hired vehicles or accompanying vehicles which are illegally parked)
 - Assign co-drivers for long-distance driving.
 - Give orders as required to ensure safe driving in bad weather or in the event of natural disasters.
 - Confirm the health of drivers through daily pre-driving checks and by giving orders as required in order to ensure safe driving.
 - Check visually or otherwise whether the driver is under the influence of alcohol before and after driving, and record and preserve the details of the checks.
 - Require drivers to keep driving logs.
 - Provide instructions in driving skills and knowledge and other subjects required for safe driving.
- ③ Automobile users must allow safe driving supervisors the necessary rights to undertake the work, as well as maintain the machinery necessary to undertake the work.

- ④ The person directly responsible for the operation of automobiles, such as the driving supervisor, must not allow drivers to engage in any of the following actions. In the event of a violation, the person responsible may have his or her license temporarily suspended and he or she may be barred temporarily from engaging supervisory activities.
 - A) Driving without a license (or on a suspended license) or without qualifications
 - B) Speeding
 - C) Drunk driving or driving under the influence
 - D) Driving under the influence of narcotics or stimulants or driving while fatigued
 - E) Driving with excessive loads
 - F) Leaving a vehicle unattended

In addition, driver services and their safety supervisors, etc, must not order or tacitly allow the drivers of hired cars or accompanying automobiles to commit acts A) – F) or illegal parking or stopping violations.