



**41. Lane Direction Designations**

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



(327-7-A)



(327-7-B)



(327-7-C)



(327-7-D)

**42. Two-Step Right Turn for Mopeds**



(327-8)

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

**43. Direct Right Turn for Mopeds**



(327-9)

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.

**44. Roundabout - Drive Around in Clockwise Direction**



(327-10)

At roundabout vehicles must drive around in clockwise direction.

**45. Parallel Parking**



(327-11)

Vehicles must park parallel to the edge of the road.

**46. Perpendicular Parking**



(327-12)

Vehicles must park perpendicular to the edge of the road.

**47. Diagonal Parking**



(327-13)

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

**48. Sound Horn**



(328)

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

**49. Sounding Zone**



(328-2)

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

**50. Slow Down**



(329)

Vehicles and streetcars must slow down.

**51. Give Way**



(329-2)

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.

**52. Stop**



(330)

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

**53. Closed to Pedestrians**



(331)

Pedestrians must not proceed.

**54. Crossing by Pedestrians Prohibited**



(332)

Pedestrians must not cross the road.

## ④ Guidance Signs

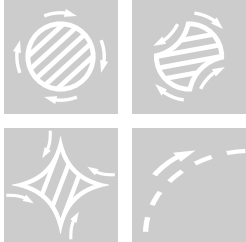
<p><b>1. Direction to Expressway</b></p>  <p>(103-A)</p>  <p>(103-B)</p>	<p><b>7. Advance Notice of Destination, Direction, and Street Name</b></p>  <p>(108-3)</p>	<p><b>13. Emergency Telephone</b></p>  <p>(116-4)</p>	<p><b>19. Prefectural Route Number</b></p>  <p>(118-2-A)</p>  <p>(118-2-B)</p>  <p>(118-2-C)</p>
<p><b>2. Advance Notice of Entrance to Expressway</b></p>  <p>(104)</p>	<p><b>8. Advance Notice of Destination, Lane, and Exit</b></p>  <p>(111-A)</p>  <p>(111-B)</p>	<p><b>14. Shelter</b></p>  <p>(116-5)</p>	<p><b>20. Road where Gross Vehicle Weight Limit Does Not Apply</b></p>  <p>(118-3-A)</p>  <p>(118-3-B)</p>
<p><b>3. Destination and Distance</b></p>  <p>(106-A)</p>  <p>(106-B)</p>	<p><b>9. Destination and Exit</b></p>  <p>(112-A)</p>  <p>(112-B)</p>	<p><b>15. Emergency Parking Zone</b></p>  <p>(116-6)</p>	<p><b>21. Road where Vehicle Height Limit Does Not Apply</b></p>  <p>(118-4-A)</p>  <p>(118-4-D)</p>
<p><b>4. Destination and Lane</b></p>  <p>(107-A)</p>  <p>(107-B)</p>	<p><b>10. Exit</b></p>  <p>(113-A)</p>  <p>(113-B)</p>	<p><b>16. Parking Area</b></p>  <p>(117-A)</p>  <p>(117-B)</p>	<p><b>22. Street Name</b></p>  <p>(119-A)</p>  <p>(119-D)</p>  <p>(119-C)</p>
<p><b>5. Advance Notice of Destination and Direction</b></p>  <p>(108-A)</p>	<p><b>11. Notable Place</b></p>  <p>(114-A)</p>  <p>(114-A)</p>  <p>(114-B)</p>	<p><b>17. Slower Traffic</b></p>  <p>(117-2-A)</p>  <p>(117-2-B)</p>	<p><b>23. Incline</b></p>  <p>(123-A)</p>  <p>(123-C)</p>
<p><b>6. Destination and Direction</b></p>  <p>(108-2-B)</p>  <p>(108-2-E)</p>	<p><b>12. Rest Area and Road Station Ahead</b></p>  <p>(116-2-A)</p>  <p>(116-2-C)</p>	<p><b>18. National Highway Route Number</b></p>  <p>(118-A)</p>  <p>(118-B)</p>  <p>(118-C)</p>	<p><b>24. Bus Stop</b></p>  <p>(124-A)</p> <p><b>25. Streetcar Stop</b></p>  <p>(125-A)</p>

## ⑥ Regulatory Markings

### 21. Right/Left Turn Route

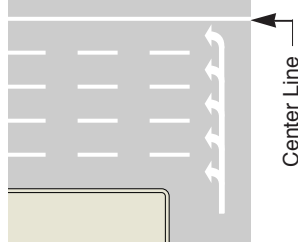
These markings indicate the routes vehicles must use when turning right or left in the intersection.

#### (1) Right Turn Routes



(111)

#### (2) Left Turn Routes



(111)

### 22. Left Turn at Roundabout



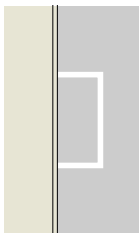
(111-2)

At roundabouts, vehicles must use indicated routes, when turning left or right, going straight on, or making a U-turn.

### 23. Parallel Parking

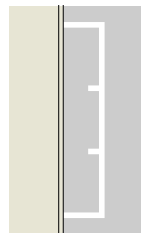
Vehicles must park within the marked area, parallel to the edge of the road.

#### (1) Single Vehicle Parking



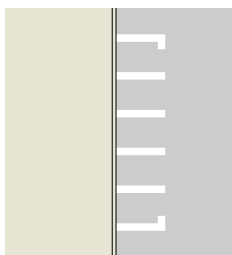
(112)

#### (2) Multiple Vehicle Parking



(112)

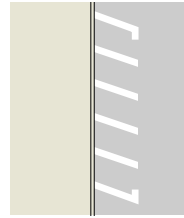
### 24. Perpendicular Parking



(113)

Vehicles must park within the marked area, perpendicular to the edge of the road.

### 25. Diagonal Parking



(114)

Vehicles must park within the marked area, at an oblique angle to the edge of the road.

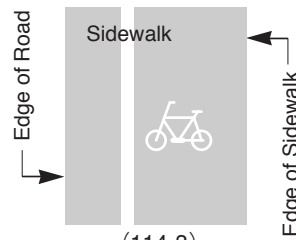
### 26. Regular Bicycles Permitted to Access Sidewalk



(114-2)

Indicates that bicycles are permitted to access the sidewalk.

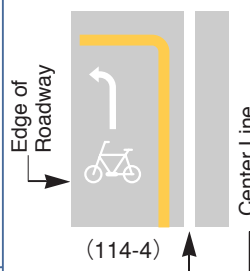
### 27. Bicycle Zone within Sidewalk



(114-3)

Indicate the part of the sidewalk bicycles should use where they are allowed to access the sidewalk.

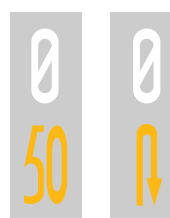
### 28. No Entry of Bicycles into Intersection



(114-4)

Regular bicycles must not enter the intersection beyond the pavement marking.

### 29. End of Traffic Regulation

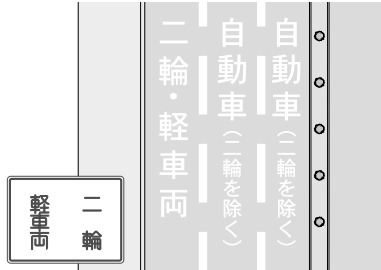


(115)

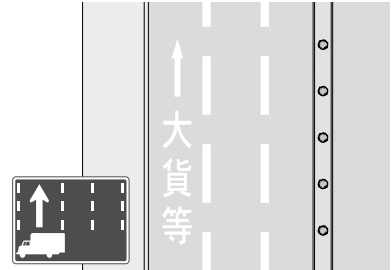
Designate the end of the traffic regulations indicated.

### 3 Lane Designations Using Signs or Pavement Markings

If signs or pavement markings designate the lanes to be used by specific types of vehicles, drivers must proceed in accordance with those designations.



Here two-wheelers and light vehicles must use a separate lane from other vehicles.

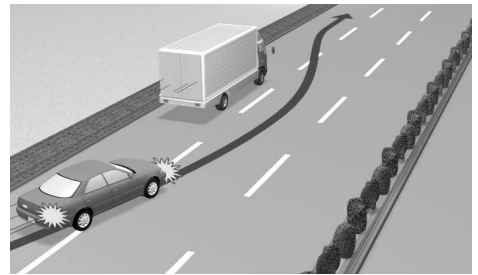


Here large-size trucks, specified medium trucks and special heavy equipment must use the designated lane.

### 4 Overtaking Other Vehicles

When overtaking other vehicles on a road with vehicular lanes, vehicles must use the lane immediately to the right<sup>1</sup> of the vehicle being overtaken.

In addition, Even after using right-most vehicular lane, to safely overtake another vehicle, immediately return to another vehicular lane.



Overtake using the lane immediately to the right of the vehicle being overtaken.

\*1

Immediately to the right...

The phrase “adjacent to the right” is also sometimes used.

Refer to page 115 for information on how to overtake other vehicles.

\*2

Unnecessarily...

As used here, “unnecessarily” means “without a legitimate reason.” Changing lanes for any of the purposes listed below does not constitute changing lanes unnecessarily.

- ① To change the lane in which one is proceeding in order to overtake another vehicle or execute a left or right turn, in accordance with the relevant ordinances.
- ② To change the lane in which one is proceeding in order to avoid danger.
- ③ To change the lane in which one is proceeding in order to obey an order issued by a police officer.

## 5 Prohibition on Changing Lanes Unnecessarily

- ① On roads with vehicular lanes, vehicles must refrain from moving outside of the lane in which they are traveling or straddling two lanes, except in cases where this is unavoidable, such as when overtaking another vehicle.
- ② Changing lanes unnecessarily<sup>2</sup> creates a nuisance for drivers further behind and can lead to accidents. Therefore, vehicles must remain in the same lane as they proceed.

### Review

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

1. On roads without vehicular lanes you may proceed on any part of the road to the left of the center of the road.
2. There are times when the center line is not located in the physical center of the road.
3. On roads with two vehicular lanes for traffic traveling in the same direction, faster vehicles use the right lane and slower vehicles use the left lane.

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

# 1 Priority for Emergency Vehicles

RT Law 40 I

## 1 If an Emergency Vehicle Is Approaching At or Near an Intersection

At and near intersections, vehicles must yield the road to approaching emergency vehicles in the following manner.

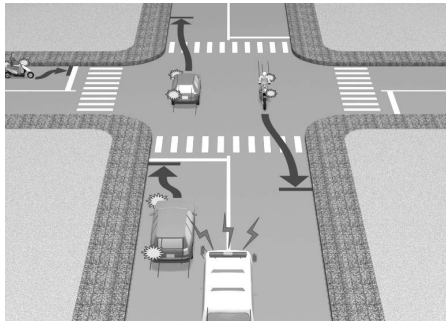
\*1  
Freeing the intersection...

As used here, this phrase means to not enter the intersection or, if one is already in one, to leave the intersection.

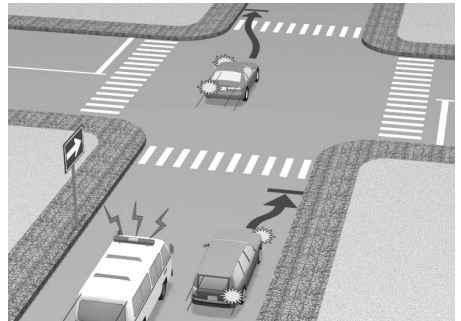
\*2  
The left (right) side of road...

Move vehicle close to left (right) side of vehicular lane when approaching a crosswalk or curb.

① By freeing the intersection<sup>1</sup>, moving to **the left side of the road<sup>2</sup>**, and **coming to a stop**.



② On one way roads, by freeing the intersection<sup>1</sup> and, if moving to the left side of the road could impede the progress of the emergency vehicle, moving to **the right side of the road<sup>2</sup>** and **coming to a stop**.

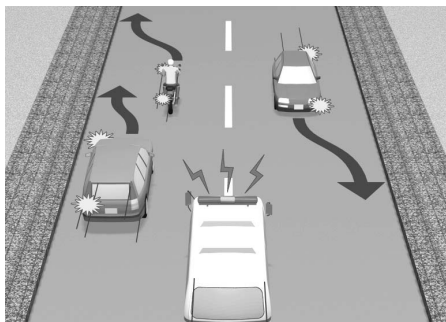


RT Law 40 II

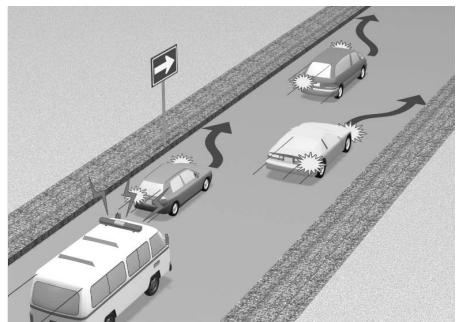
## 2 If an Emergency Vehicle Is Approaching in a Location Other Than At or Near an Intersection

In a location other than at or near an intersection, vehicles must yield the road to approaching emergency vehicles in the following manner.

① By moving to **the left side of the road<sup>2</sup>**.



② On one way roads, if moving to the left side of the road could impede the progress of the emergency vehicle, by moving to **the right side of the road<sup>2</sup>**.



# 1 Proceeding Through Intersections

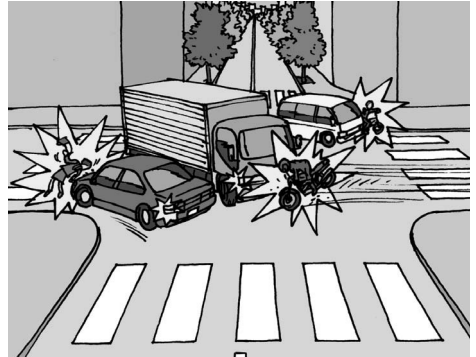
\*1

## Intersections...

The term “intersection” refers to the part of the road where two or more roads (roadways if any of the roads have sidewalks and roadways) meet, as at an X-crossing or a T-crossing.

Refer to page 74 for roundabout.

Intersections<sup>1</sup> are the most dangerous and accident-prone parts of the road since they are where traffic converges from different directions, and they also tend to be heavily used by pedestrians. Care must be taken when entering and proceeding through an intersection. In addition to obeying traffic rules, you must also pay attention to factors such as whether or not there are pedestrians crossing the street, the directions in which other vehicles are proceeding, and whether or not there are cyclists riding along the sides of the road or hidden behind oncoming traffic.



Intersections are the most accident-prone parts of the roadway.

RT Law 34 I

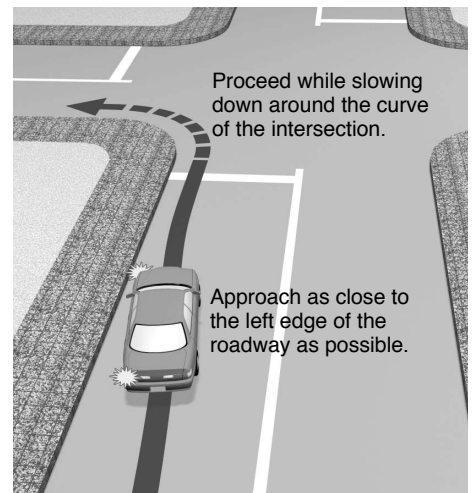
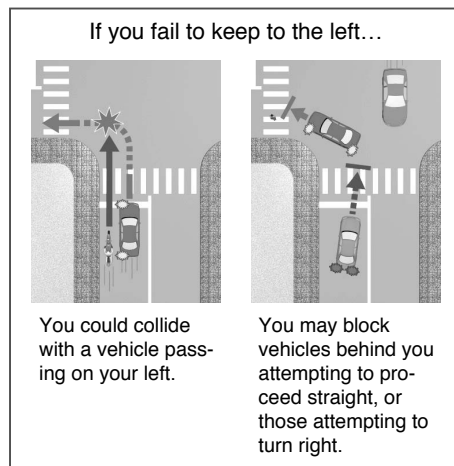
## 1 Executing Left Turns (Except Roundabout)

In order to make a left turn, the vehicle must initially **approach** the intersection as close to **the left edge of the road** as possible and proceed **around the curve of the intersection** (following markings, such as arrows, indicating how to proceed) **while slowing down**<sup>2</sup>.

\*2

## Slowing down...

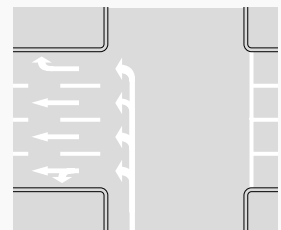
The expression “slowing down” as used here means at a speed from which it is possible to stop the vehicle immediately. Refer to page 87 for details.



## Point

### If the Method for Making a Left Turn Is Specified

At intersections with wide streets you may see markings on the roadway inside the intersection such as those shown on the right. If such markings are present, you must enter the lane indicated by the arrow after completing the left turn.

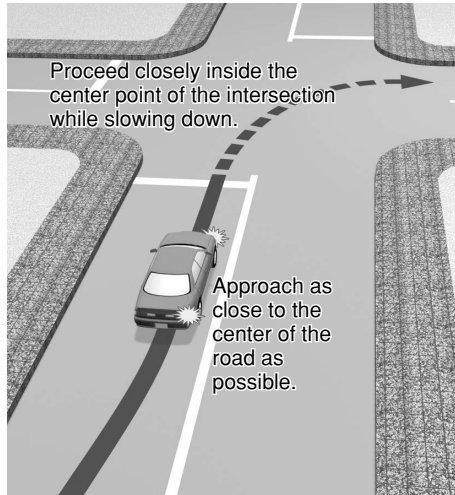
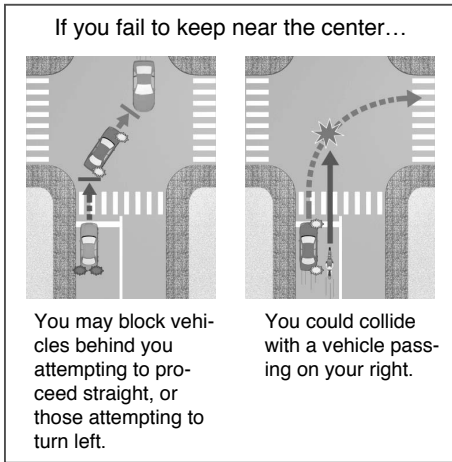


## 2 Executing Right Turns (Except Roundabout)

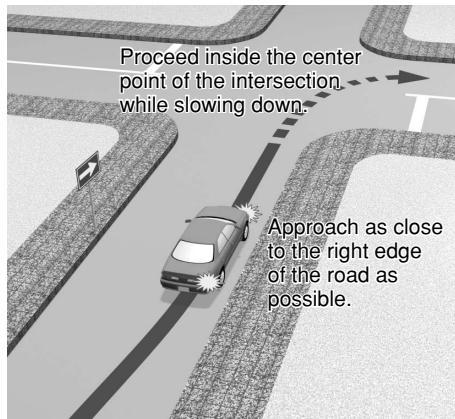
RT Law 34 II, IV, V

### (1) Executing Right Turns (Automobiles)

- ① In order to make a right turn, the automobile must initially **approach** the intersection as close to **the center of the road** as possible and proceed **closely inside the center point of the intersection** (following markings, such as arrows, indicating how to proceed) **while slowing down**.



- ② In order to make a right turn from a one-way street, the automobile must initially approach the intersection as close **to the right edge of the road** as possible and proceed **inside the center point of the intersection** (following markings, such as arrows, indicating how to proceed) **while slowing down**.



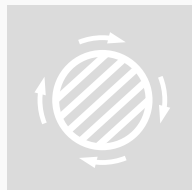
**Quick Hint**

Note the difference in the positioning of your vehicle when making a right turn from a one-way street and when making a right turn from a two-way street.

## Point

### If the Method for Making a Right Turn Is Specified

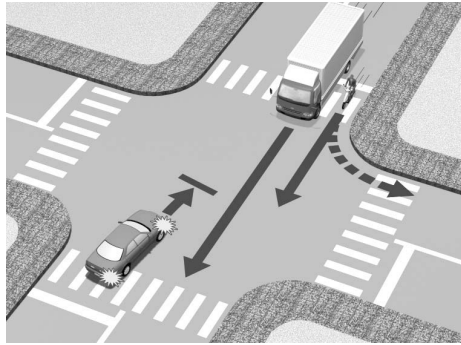
If there are markings on the roadway indicating the method for making a right turn, you must follow them when making your turn.



### 3 Prohibition on Obstructing Oncoming Traffic (Except Roundabout)

RT Law 37

Even if they entered the intersection first, vehicles executing right turns must not obstruct the progress of oncoming straight-through traffic and vehicles executing left turns (including streetcars).



Allow oncoming straight-through traffic and vehicles executing left turns to pass first.

### Point

#### Precautions When Making Right Turns

Many accidents that occur at intersections involve vehicles attempting to turn right and oncoming two-wheeled vehicles attempting to proceed straight through (right-turn–straight-through collisions).



Particular care should be exercised when turning right after having the right-of-way yielded to you by a vehicle intending to proceed straight through the intersection. You should always assume that there may be a two-wheeled vehicle hidden behind the vehicle that is allowing you to proceed.

At the same time, if you are riding a two-wheeled vehicle you should be particularly careful not to enter intersections alongside large vehicles.

### 4 Separate Lanes for Traffic Proceeding in Different Directions

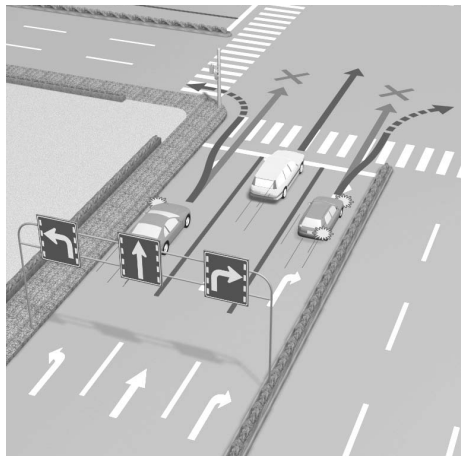
RT Law 35 I

On roads with multiple lanes of traffic, if **separate lanes** for traffic proceeding in different directions are indicated by signs or markings at an intersection, automobiles and mopeds must proceed through the intersection in the direction indicated for their lane.

However, the above indications may be disregarded in the following cases.

- ① If an emergency vehicle is approaching.
- ② If disregarding the indications is unavoidable due to road construction, or similar.

Note that light vehicles, and mopeds intending to make a left turn or a right turn at an intersection where the two-step method is stipulated, must proceed along the left edge of the road.



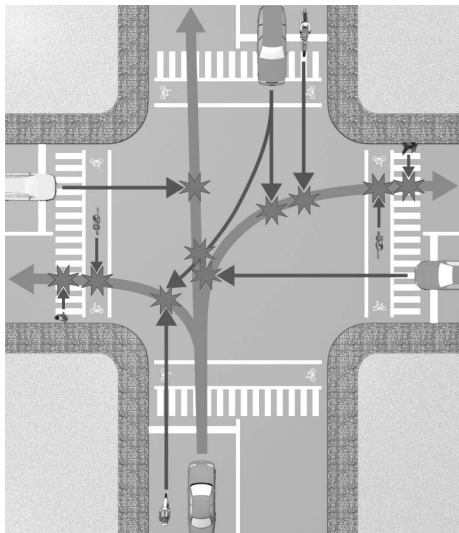


# 2 Precautions When Proceeding Through Intersections

## 1 Safe Speed and Turning Method (Except Roundabout)

RT Law 36 IV

When entering and proceeding through an intersection, the vehicle must employ a **safe speed and method to every possible extent**, based on conditions within the intersection, while paying attention to vehicles turning right, pedestrians, etc. In particular, when making a right turn, due caution should be exercised since oncoming two-wheeled vehicles attempting to proceed straight through the intersection may be difficult to see.



So many places where accidents can occur...

## 2 Avoiding Cutting Off Others when Executing Right or Left Turns

A **wheelbase differential** occurs when a vehicle executes a right or a left turn. Large vehicles have a correspondingly large wheelbase differential, and there is also a blind spot (from the viewpoint of the driver) at the left rear. It is therefore important to be careful to avoid cutting off pedestrians or cyclists who may be proceeding on the left side of the vehicle.



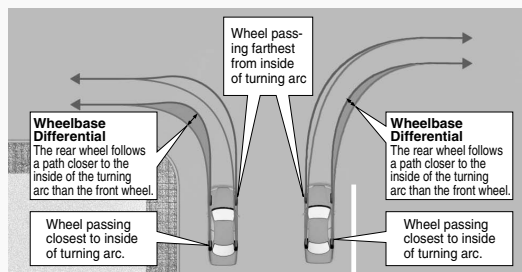
In addition, two-wheeled vehicles passing through intersections should exercise caution to avoid being cut off by larger vehicles.

### Point

#### Wheelbase Differential

When a vehicle executes a turn, the rear wheel follows a path closer to the inside of the turning arc than the front wheel. This difference in the positions of the front and rear wheels is referred to as the wheelbase differential. In general, the longer the distance between the front and rear wheels of the vehicle, the greater the wheelbase differential is.

Note: The figure on the right shows the paths of the front and rear wheels when a vehicle executes a turn.



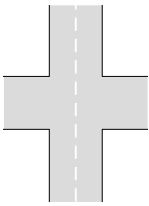
# 3 Proceeding Through Intersections that Have No Traffic Control

RT Law 36 II, III

\* 1

## Right of way...

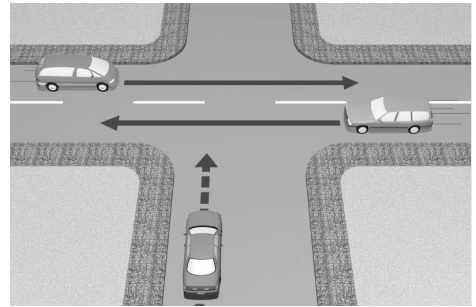
The term right of way refers to roads marked with a right of way sign and roads in which the center line or vehicular lanes continue through the intersection.



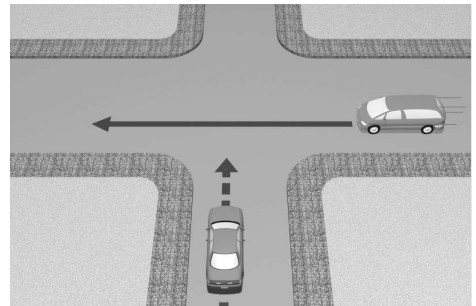
RT Law 36 I (1)

## 1 If the Cross Street is a Road with Right of Way (Except Roundabout)

When approaching an intersection that has no traffic control, if the cross street is a **road with right of way**<sup>1</sup> or if the **cross street is wider**, the vehicle must **slow down** and may not block the progress of vehicles or streetcars proceeding on the cross street.



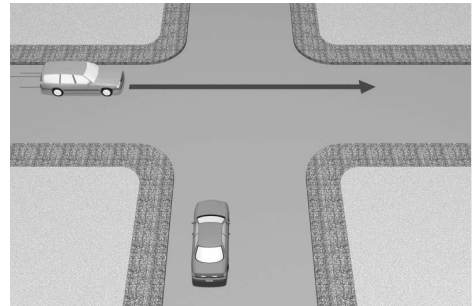
Cross street is a road with right of way.



Cross street is wider.

## 2 If a Vehicle Is Approaching from the Left on the Cross Street (Except Roundabout)

When approaching an intersection that has no traffic control, if the cross street is **the same width**, the vehicle may not block the progress of **vehicles approaching from the left** on the cross street.

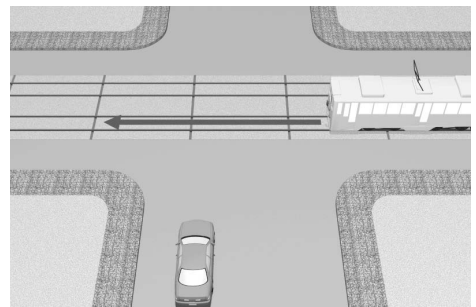


Cross street is the same width.

RT Law 36 I (2)

## 3 If a Streetcar Is Approaching on the Cross Street (Except Roundabout)

When approaching an intersection that has no traffic control, if the cross street is **the same width**, the vehicle may not block the progress of **streetcars** traveling on the cross street, **regardless of whether they are approaching from the right or the left**.



Cross street is the same width.



### Quick Hint

If the cross street is the same width, you must not block the progress of...

- ① vehicles approaching from the left, or
- ② streetcars approaching from the right or the left.

## Point

### Driving Procedure At Roundabout

#### ① Definition of Roundabout...

The term “roundabout” refers to an intersection like a ring, where vehicles drive around in a clockwise direction, following road signs<sup>1</sup> etc.



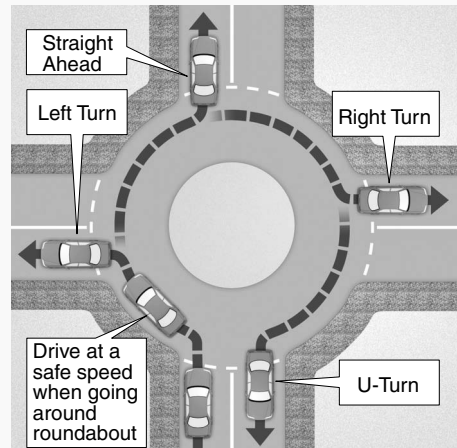
Supplied by Iida City

#### ② Safe Speed and Driving Method

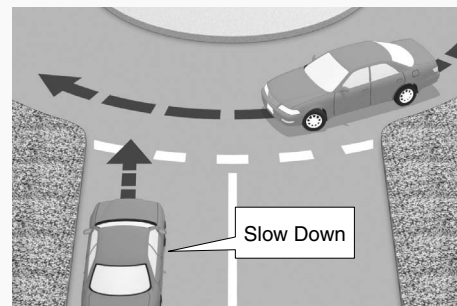
When using roundabout, pay safe attention to pedestrians and other vehicles and **drive correctly at a safe speed**.

#### ③ Executing Left Turn, Right Turn, Straight Ahead and U-turn Movements

To make a left turn, right turn, straight ahead or U-turn movement at a roundabout, vehicle must initially approach roundabout **as close to left edge of road as possible and proceed along inside of roundabout at a safe speed** (following markings, such as arrows, indicating how to proceed).



In addition, when entering roundabout, give way to other vehicles and streetcars already on the roundabout **while driving slowly**.



\*1

Roundabout-Drive  
Around in Clockwise  
Direction

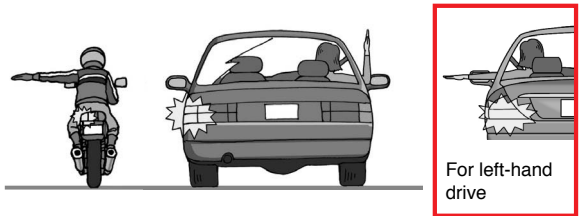
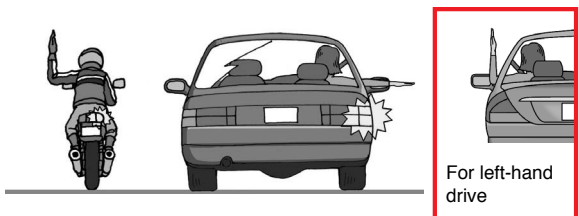
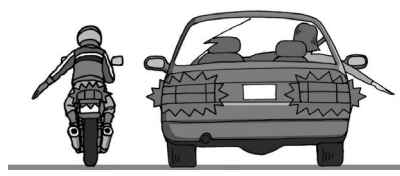



#### Quick Hint

##### Advantage of Roundabout

- ① All vehicles to travel at a safe speed to prevent fatal or other accidents.
- ② Compared to a signal intersection, waiting time is less.
- ③ Road traffic lights are not necessary at roundabouts, so no confusion will occur in event of a power cut, due to disasters etc.

● **When, Where, and How to Use Signals**

When to Use Signal	Timing of Signal (Where)	How to Signal
<p><b>Turning left</b> (except inside the roundabout)</p> <hr/> <p>When exiting a roundabout</p> <p>Note: Do not signal when entering a roundabout.</p>	<p><b>30 meters before</b> reaching the point (or at an intersection) where the left turn will be made.</p> <hr/> <p>When driving around roundabout, move safely into exit vehicular lane before reaching exit. (Signal when entering a roundabout, if you want to leave at first exit.)</p>	<p>Operate the vehicle's left direction indicator, or signal with the right arm from the right side of the vehicle with the elbow bent at 90° and hand pointing to the sky, or signal with the left arm from the left side of the vehicle extended straight out, parallel to the ground.</p> 
<p>Moving into the lane <b>to the left</b> while traveling straight (changing lanes)</p>	<p><b>About 3 seconds before</b> intending to change lanes.</p>	
<p><b>Turning right</b> or making a <b>U-turn</b> (except inside the roundabout)</p>	<p><b>30 meters before</b> reaching the point (or at an intersection) where the right turn or U-turn will be made.</p>	<p>Operate the vehicle's right direction indicator, or signal with the right arm from the right side of the vehicle extended straight, parallel to the ground, or signal with the left arm from the left side of the vehicle with the elbow bent at 90° and hand pointing to the sky.</p>
<p>Moving into the lane <b>to the right</b> while traveling straight (changing lanes)</p>	<p><b>About 3 seconds before</b> intending to change lanes.</p>	
<p><b>Slowing down or stopping.</b></p>	<p>When intending to slow down or stop.</p>	<p>Activate the brake lights, or signal with the arm extended diagonally downward from vehicle.</p> 
<p><b>Reversing</b></p>	<p>When intending to reverse</p>	<p>Activate the reversing lights, or signal with the arm extended diagonally downward from vehicle and the palm facing back, waving backward.</p> 

Note: When indicator lights are difficult to see, at sunset or other times, it is best to also use a hand signal.

### 3 Places Where Overtaking is Prohibited

In the following types of places, **changing lanes or moving alongside** a automobile or moped<sup>1</sup> in order to overtake it is prohibited.

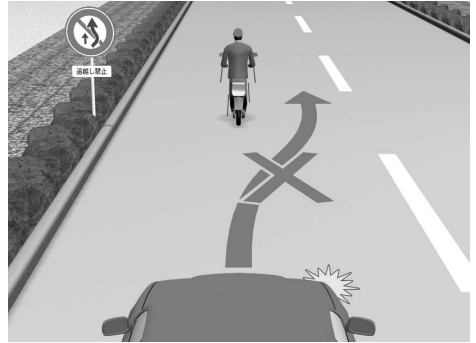
\*1  
Light vehicles...

Even in locations where overtaking is prohibited, overtaking light vehicles such as bicycles is permitted.

① Locations where a sign prohibits overtaking

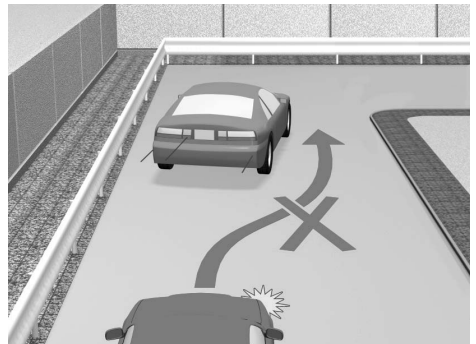


追越し禁止  
No overtaking



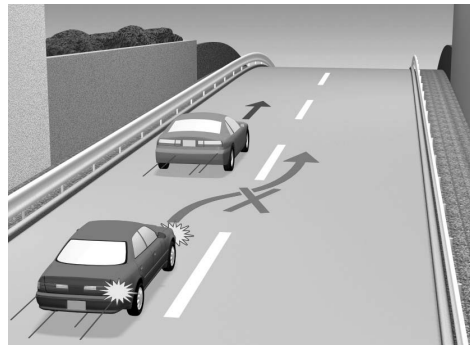
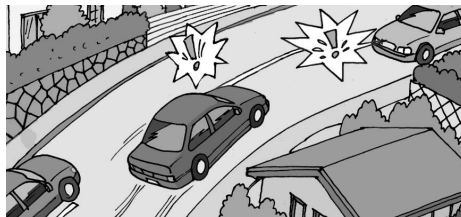
② At corners

If you overtake...



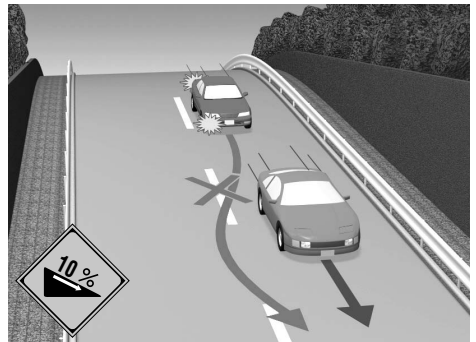
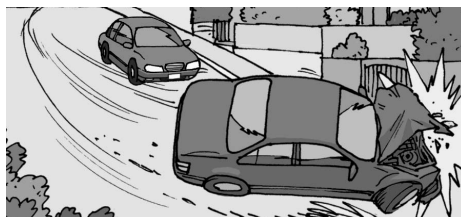
③ Near the top of a hill

If you overtake...



④ Along a steep downward slope<sup>2</sup>

If you overtake...



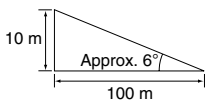
**Quick Hint**

- ② At corners
- ③ Near the top of a hill
- ④ Along a steep downward slope

Some locations have regulations you must obey, to drive at a slow speed. Refer to page 87.

\*2  
Steep downward slope

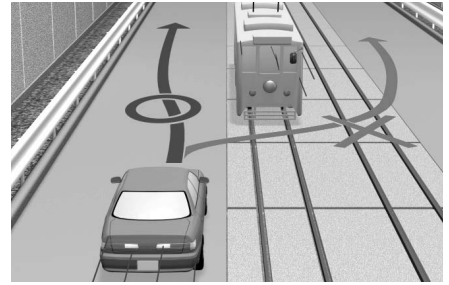
Generally refers to a gradient of 10% or more (a descent of 10 meters per 100 meters).



### 3 Overtaking a Streetcar

When overtaking a streetcar, one must pass on the left side.

However, if the rails<sup>1</sup> are close to the left side of the road, it is permissible to pass on the right side.

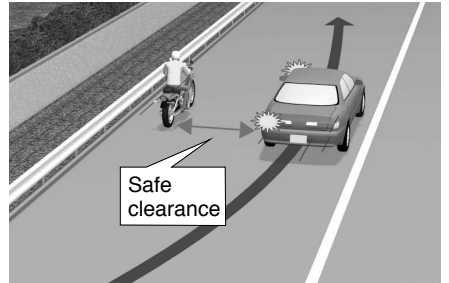


\* 1  
Also "tracks"

### 4 Maintaining a Safe Passing Clearance

When overtaking, the driver must ensure that there is a safe clearance between the vehicle and the vehicle you are overtaking.

Leave a little extra space especially when overtaking a two-wheeled vehicle.



### 5 Use Rightmost Vehicular Lane to Overtake

On roads with vehicular lanes, after using rightmost vehicular lane, to safely overtake another vehicle, immediately return to another vehicular lane.

**Quick Hint**

It is very dangerous, to continually drive in rightmost vehicular lane, as it may lead to driving at excessive speed, decreasing distance between vehicles.

It may inconvenience other vehicles, if they want to overtake.

### Point

#### Does it Pay to Overtake?

The chart below shows the results of a test in overtaking carried out by a trucking association using regular passenger vehicle in Shizuoka prefecture. Look at how many vehicles Car A overtook and Car B was overtaken by over a distance of about 100 kilometers, and see the difference in the time it took for them to reach their destination.

Test car	Driving style	Distance	Overtook	Was overtaken by	Required time
Car A	60 km/h; overtake as many cars as possible	Route 1; from in front of Shizuoka station to the border of Aichi prefecture (102.6 km)	83 vehicles	–	2 hours, 19 minutes
Car B	50 km/h or less; never overtake any cars		None	77 vehicles	2 hours, 29 minutes

The arrival time was only 10 minutes apart. That is not even one minute for every 10 kilometers. With frequent overtaking, fatigue and the risk of accidents increase, more fuel is consumed, and there is greater wear and tear on the brakes, gears, and tires. Disadvantages like these seem to outweigh the time gain seen in these results.

# 6 Course System for People Whose License has been Revoked

## 1 Course System for People Whose License has been Revoked

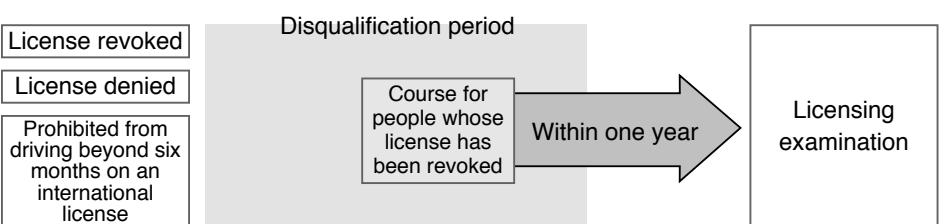
After completion of the disqualification period following the revocation of a person driver's license, if he or she wants to reobtain a license, before taking the licensing examination a **course** is required **for people with a revoked license** designed to help prevent the reoccurrence of traffic accidents and traffic violations.

However, if a person fails the licensing examination within one year of taking the course, the course becomes invalid.

## 2 Those Required to Take a Course for People Whose License has been Revoked

Those people to whom any of the following applies must take a course for people whose license has been revoked or they will not be allowed to take the licensing examination, even after completion of the disqualification period.

- ① A person whose license has been revoked.
- ② A person who has been denied a license.
- ③ A person who is prohibited from driving beyond six months on an international driver's license or foreign driver's license.



Note: For those who have had their license revoked, on the novice-driver term system, or are affected by legal diseases (① ② in section 2 on P.133), this course does not apply.

# 7 The Traffic Violation Notification System

## 1 Infractions and Fines

The traffic violation notification system is for relatively minor traffic violations (called "infractions") committed by the driver of an automobile or moped and allows the payment of a **specified fine**<sup>1</sup> at a post office or bank within a specified period of time to avoid appearing for trial at a criminal court or family court.

This system does not apply to a high-risk person who has been caught driving without a license, driving drunk, or a person who has caused a traffic accident while committing a traffic violation. Such a person is required to appear for trial at a criminal court or family court.

RT Law 96-3

RT Law 108-2 I (2)

### Quick Hint

International driver's license and foreign driver's license...

People who have a driver's license recognized under international treaty regarding traffic safety (international driver's license) or a driver's license of equal standing (foreign driver's license), are permitted to drive in Japan using that license for the type of vehicle (excluding vehicles for transporting passengers) permitted by the license for one year from their entry into the country.

RT Law 125

\*1 Fine...

The amount of each fine is set according to the violation. Refer to the table on page 139 for details.

# Main Traffic Violations and Amounts of Fines

(Unit of fine: 1,000 yen)

Traffic violation	Points	Points for under the influence of alcohol	Amount of fine				
			Large	Regular	Motorcycle	Moped, etc.	
Injuring someone while driving and etc.	Manslaughter while driving and etc.	62					
	Hospitalized for more than 3 months with an after effect of an injury	55					
	Hospitalized for more than 30 days	51					
	Hospitalized for more than 15 days	48					
	Hospitalized for less than 15 days	45					
Destroying private property	45						
Reckless driving which caused death etc.	Reckless driving which caused death etc.	62					
	Hospitalized for more than 3 months with an after effect of an injury	55					
	Hospitalized for more than 30 days	51					
	Hospitalized for more than 15 days	48					
Drunk driving	35						
Driving under the influence of drugs, etc.	35						
Failure to administer aid to the injured	35						
Driving under the influence of alcohol	0.25 or more	25					
	0.15 or more but less than 0.25	13					
Aiding and abetting dangerous driving	25						
Driving without a license	25						
Driving large vehicles, etc. without necessary qualification or license	12 19						
Driving illegally with a learner's permit	12 19						
Driving in a state of physical exhaustion, etc.	25						
Driving a vehicle without motor vehicle inspection (Vehicle Law)	6 16						
Driving a vehicle without insurance (Automobile Liability Insurance Law)	6 16						
Speeding	50 km or more	12 19					
	30 km or more (40 km for express-way) to less than 50 km	6 16					
	Expressway	35 km or more to less than 40 km	3 15	40	35	30	20
		30 km or more to less than 35 km	3 15	30	25	20	15
	25 km or more to less than 30 km (40 km for expressway)	3 15	25	18	15	12	
20 km or more to less than 25 km	2 14	20	15	12	10		
15 km or more to less than 20 km	1 14	15	12	9	7		
Below 15 km	1 14	12	9	7	6		
Disregarding traffic signals	Red light, etc.	2 14	12	9	7	6	
	Flashing light	2 14	9	7	6	5	
Driving where prohibited	2 14	9	7	6	5		
Driving in the wrong lane	2 14	12	9	7	6		
Illegal sudden braking	2 14	9	7	6	5		
Illegal overtaking	2 14	12	9	7	6		
Failure to stop at a railway crossing	2 14	12	9	7	6		
Entering a railroad crossing when it is prohibited	2 14	15	12	9	7		
Failure to yield to a vehicle with the right-of-way	2 14	9	7	6	5		
Failure to exercise due care and attention at an intersection	2 14	12	9	7	6		
Failure to yield to a vehicle with the roundabout	2 14	9	7	6	5		
Failure to exercise due care and attention at a roundabout	2 14	12	9	7	6		
Obstructing a pedestrian crossing	2 14	12	9	7	6		
Failure to slow down in a slow speed zone	2 14	9	7	6	5		
Parking and leaving a vehicle violation	Parking and stopping in a prohibited area	3	27 25	20 18	12 10	12 10	
	Parking in a prohibited area	2	23 21	17 15	11 9	11 9	
Parking or stopping violation	Parking and stopping in a prohibited area	2 14	17 15	14 12	9 7	9 7	
	Parking in a prohibited area	1 14	14 12	12 10	8 6	8 6	
Exceeding the load limit	100% or higher	6 3 16 15		35	30	25	
	50% to 99%	3 2 15 14	40	30	25	20	
	Below 50%	2 1 14 14	30	25	20	15	
Defective vehicle maintenance	Braking mechanism and similar	2 14	12	9	7	6	
	Tail-lights	1 14	9	7	6	5	

Traffic violation	Points	Points for under the influence of alcohol	Amount of fine			
			Large	Regular	Motorcycle	Moped, etc.
Failure to stop in a designated location	2 14	9	7	6	5	
Failure to drive with due care	2 14	12	9	7	6	
Obstructing the passage of small children	2 14	9	7	6	5	
Use of mobile telephone or similar (Causing a traffic hazard)	2 14	12	9	7	6	
Use of mobile telephone or similar (Holding a phone)	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Noisy driving	2 14	7	6	6	5	
Failure to equip vehicle with a suitable muffler	2 14	7	6	6	5	
Traffic offense for crossing a main road where it is prohibited	2 14	12	9	7	6	
Ignoring the order to adopt measures on a national expressway	2 14	12	9	7	6	
Failure to meet license requirements	2 14	9	7	6	5	
Failure to display a number plate	2 14					
Vehicle custody and parking law offenses	3					
Use of a road for parking	2					
Parking for an extended period of time in a restricted area	2					
Violation in a vehicle passing zone	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Failure to yield to a bus in a priority lane for buses	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Driving in a streetcar lane	1 14	6	4	4	3	
Crossing at a designated prohibited location	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Failure to maintain a safe distance between vehicles	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Expressway	2 14	12	9	7	6	
Illegal lane changes	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Violation of the duty of overtaken vehicles	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Interfering with public vehicles	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Cutting in	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Obstructing a vehicle method of a right/left turn at an intersection	1 14	6	4	4	3	
Failure to observe a designated zone for vehicle passing	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Obstructing a vehicle method such as left turns at a roundabout	1 14	6	4	4	3	
Obstructing a vehicle with the right-of-way at an intersection	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Obstructing an emergency vehicle	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Violation of no entry point at an intersection	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Driving without headlights	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Failure to dim headlights	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Failure to signal	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Neglecting to honk a horn	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Improper riding or loading	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Exceeding vehicle loading capacity	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Exceeding load size	1 14	9	7	6	5	
Exceeding loading method restrictions	1 14	9	7	6	5	
Violation of the duty to prevent falling/slipping load	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Violation to take measures to prevent falling loads	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Neglecting duties of protecting drivers who just received drivers' licenses	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Failure to fasten seat belt	1 14					
Failure to use a child seat	1 14					
Failure to wear a helmet	1 14					
Improper operation of a large motorcycle	2 14			12		
Failure to display the novice driver's sign	1 14		4			
No sticker for Drivers' with Auditory Difficulties on his/her car	1 14		4			
Interfering with emergency vehicles on a main road	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Violation of the rules governing the entry/exit from a main through lane	1 14	6	4	4	3	
Violation of the rules governing the entry/exit from a main through lane by a towing vehicle	1 14	7	6			
Failure to provide a marker at the site of a breakdown	1 14	7	6	6	5	
Spattering mud while driving		7	6	6	5	
Failure to observe the duties prescribed by the Public Safety Commission		7	6	6	5	
Failure to carry a driver's license		3	3	3	3	

- Note: This specific color indicates that it is a special violation of traffic law and others are general violations of traffic law.
- Note: "Large" refers to large vehicles, medium vehicles and heavy special equipment. Heavy vehicles to be towed are subject to "Parking or stopping violation (Parking or stopping in a prohibited area)". "Motorcycle" refers to large size and regular motorcycles. "Moped, etc." refers to light special equipment and mopeds.
- Note: When a violation is committed and alcohol is found on the driver's breath (with a breath alcohol concentration of more than 0.15mg/liter and less than 0.25mg/liter), the driver will be charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and penalty points will be assessed.
- Note: The amounts on the left of the "Amount of fine" columns for "Parking and leaving a vehicle violation" and "Parking or stopping violation" indicate the amount of fine for such violations in special areas for senior drivers, etc. The amounts on the right indicate the amount of fine for such violations in all other areas.
- Note: Points for exceeding the load limit and driving under the influence of alcohol are indicated in the left column for large vehicles, and indicated on the right for regular vehicles.
- Note: Points will be assessed for "Failure to fasten seatbelts" in rear seats only when the violation is committed on the highway.



## 2 Automobile Inspections

### (1) The Duty to Have One's Automobile Inspected

Every automobile (excluding compact cars excluded from inspection<sup>1</sup> and light special equipment) must undergo a compulsory safety inspection ("shaken") at fixed intervals, and must receive a **motor vehicle inspection certificate** before it can be driven.

#### Point

#### Inspection (*Shaken*) Period -- Major vehicles --

Automobiles to be inspected annually	Automobiles to be inspected every two years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial use Automobiles (excluding vehicles with a total displacement of 660cc or less, and large-size motorcycles, and regular motorcycles)</li> <li>Private use                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Regular trucks (excluding 660cc or less)</li> <li>② Passenger automobiles with a seating capacity of 11 passenger or more</li> </ul> </li> <li>Rental cars (excluding 660cc or less)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private use                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Passenger automobiles with a seating capacity of 10 passengers or less</li> <li>② Regular trucks of 660cc or less</li> <li>③ Large-size motorcycles</li> <li>④ Regular motorcycles (excluding 250cc or less)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Rental cars (660cc or less)</li> </ul>

Note: Of the automobiles to be inspected every two years, the first required inspection is in the third year for new motorcycles and private passenger automobiles (restricted to gross weight less than 8 tons).

### (2) The Inspection Sticker

When an automobile passes inspection, it is issued a vehicle inspection certificate and **inspection sticker**. The inspection sticker must be displayed by sticking onto the inside front windshield<sup>2</sup> to be easily visible facing forward.

The inspection sticker indicates **the next inspection month** (and year).

Inspection Sticker for Four-Wheeled (greater than 660cc) and Two-Wheeled Vehicles



Inspection Sticker for Regular Motor Vehicles 660cc or Less



The number above indicates the year in which the inspection certificate expires, and the number below indicates the month.

## 3 Motor Vehicle Inspection Certificate and Compulsory Automobile Liability Insurance Certificate

Automobiles that require inspection must have a **valid motor vehicle inspection certificate** and a **compulsory automobile liability insurance (CALI or "jibaiseki hoken") certificate** or **mutual relief system insurance ("sekinin kyosai") certificate**<sup>3</sup>.

Automobiles excluded from inspection and mopeds must not be driven without a compulsory automobile liability insurance or mutual relief system insurance certificate.

Before driving an automobile or moped, confirm that it is covered by such insurance and that the term of validity has not expired.

RTV Law 58, 61, 62, 66  
RTV Law Enforcement Regulations 45

\*1

Compact cars excluded from inspection...

Refers to motorcycles with an engine displacement of 250 cc or less and vehicles with an engine displacement of 660 cc or less that use caterpillar tracks or sleds.

\*2

Two-wheeled vehicles, etc...

For vehicles without a cabin or front windshield, such as large-size and regular motorcycles, the emblem must be stuck onto the license plate at the rear of the vehicle, in the upper left corner so that it is easily visible.



#### Quick Hint

#### Insurance Sticker

Compact cars excluded from inspection and mopeds are required to display the "insurance sticker" that indicates that the vehicle is covered by compulsory automobile liability insurance.



Note:

The color of this sticker changes from year to year in the following order: blue, orange, purple, yellow-green, red, yellow, green.

RTV Law 66 I  
MVDI Law 8, 9-5

\*3

Mutual relief system...

Refers to compulsory automobile liability mutual aid, which serves the same purpose as compulsory automobile liability insurance and is offered by organizations such as agricultural associations and consumer cooperatives.

# 2 Speed and Distance Between Vehicles

## 1 Obeying Maximum and Minimum Speed Limits

### (1) Regulated Speed Limit

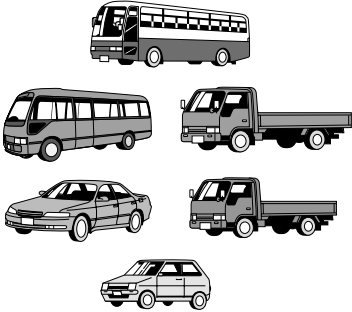

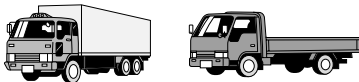

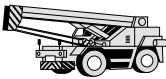

If a maximum or minimum speed limit is indicated by signs or pavement markings, automobiles must not exceed the maximum speed limit nor drive slower than the minimum speed limit.

### (2) Designated Maximum Speed

In the main through lanes<sup>1</sup> of national expressways with no maximum or minimum speed limit indicated by signs or pavement markings, automobiles must not exceed the maximum speed limits nor drive slower than the minimum speed limits listed in the table below.

**Note:** It is not necessary to observe the minimum speed limit if it is necessary to drive slower in order to obey laws or ordinances or to avoid danger.

### ● Maximum and Minimum Speed Limits in Main Through Lanes of National Expressways

Automobiles Type		Maximum Speed Limit	Minimum Speed Limit
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large passenger vehicles</li> <li>Medium passenger vehicles</li> <li>Medium trucks with a gross weight below 8 tons, maximum payload below 5 tons, and seating capacity of 10 passengers or less</li> <li>Regular motor vehicles<sup>2</sup> (Excluding three-wheel and towing vehicles)</li> </ul> 	100 km/h	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large-size motorcycles</li> <li>Regular motorcycles<sup>3</sup></li> </ul> 		
Automobile types not listed above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large-size trucks</li> <li>Medium trucks with a gross weight of 8 tons or more, maximum payload of 5 tons or more, and seating capacity of 11 passengers or more</li> </ul> 	80 km/h	50 km/h
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three-wheeled regular motor vehicles</li> </ul> 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special heavy equipment</li> </ul> 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Towing vehicles (trailer)</li> </ul> 		

RT Law 22 I, 23, 75-4, Enforcement Ordinance 27, 27-2, 27-3

\*1  
Main through lanes...  
This expression refers to the lanes in which high-speed traffic normally flows on national expressways and to the corresponding parts of motorways. Accelerating and decelerating and slower traffic lanes, side strips, shoulders are not through lanes.

\*2  
Includes motor vehicles with displacement of less than 660 cc

\*3  
Motorcycles with a displacement of greater than 125 cc

**Quick Hint**  
Maximum Speed Limit, etc., on Motorways

On motorways the maximum and minimum speed limits listed in the table on the left do not apply. Instead, the speed limit is the same as on general roads.

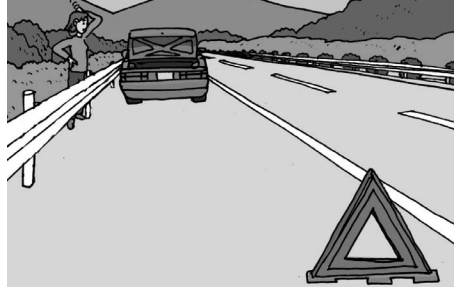
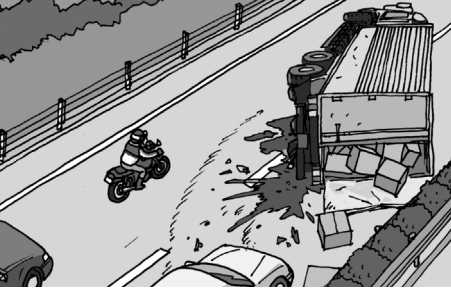
### Situations Where the Maximum and Minimum Speed Limits Listed in the Table Do Not Apply

- On parts of national expressways where main through lanes traveling in opposite directions are not separated by a physical divider, the maximum and minimum speed limits listed in the table do not apply and the speed limit is the same as on general roads.

### 3 Prohibition on Parking and Stopping

Drivers must not park or stop on expressways. However, this prohibition does not apply in the following cases.

- ① When stopping temporarily in order to avoid danger, etc.
- ② When unavoidably forced to park on a sufficiently wide shoulder or side strip due to a mechanical breakdown, or similar.



- ③ When parking or stopping in a parking area.
- ④ When stopping to pay tolls, etc.

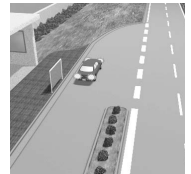


#### Quick Hint

##### Bus Stops

Bus stops along expressways are facilities that may be used only by buses serving designated routes.

They may not be used by regular vehicles to park or stop.



## 5 What To Do if an Accident Occurs

### 1 Using the Side Strip or Shoulder

If forced unavoidably to stop on an expressway due to mechanical failure, running out of gas or due to a road accident, drivers must park and stop on a sufficiently wide shoulder or side strip so as not to impede the progress of other vehicles.

### 3 Moving Vehicles and Using Emergency Telephones

If the vehicle breaks down due to mechanical failure, running out of gas or due to road accident, driver must make an emergency call to the recovery vehicle and also contact the police by dialing 110, in order to have the vehicle moved to a safe place, as soon as possible.

In addition, if possible the driver should shift to the first or second gear and use the engine's starting motor to move the car to the shoulder or side strip. (This method does not work on automobiles equipped with an automatic transmission or clutch start system.)



### 4 Removal of Fallen or Scattered Cargo

If cargo has fallen or become scattered and needs to be removed from the expressway, the driver should request to have cargos removed using an emergency telephone while contacting the police by dialing 110, since it is very dangerous on the expressway.

### 5 Moving to a Safe Location

Remaining on the expressway is dangerous, as collisions may occur with following vehicles, so after completing necessary measures to prevent danger, driver (and any passengers) should leave vehicle and move to a safe location, outside of the safety fence.



#### Quick Hint

#### Emergency Telephones

Emergency telephones are installed at intervals of approximately 1 kilometer along the side of expressways. Simply lift the receiver and you will be connected to the office of the road management company.

Check the following points and inform the dispatcher once you are connected.

- ① The number of the emergency telephone
- ② Whether a breakdown or an accident has occurred
- ③ The location where the vehicle is stopped (side strip, through lane, etc.)
- ④ Whether there are any injured persons present

#### Review

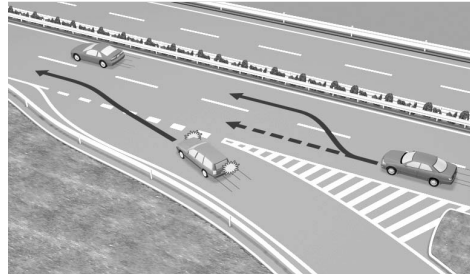
Mark each of the following statements true or false to check your comprehension of the preceding section.

1. The maximum speed limit for all regular automobiles is 100 kilometers per hour in the through lanes on national expressways.
2. In the through lanes on expressways, one should use the solid white line at the right of the roadway as a guideline and proceed slightly to the right of the center of the vehicular lane.
3. Should your vehicle become broken down on the expressway, it is best to leave your car and wait at a location off the road after completing the necessary measures.

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

#### (4) Precautions On and Near Interchanges, etc.

When driving near the acceleration lane of an interchange, service area, or similar be sure to look out for vehicles entering the main through lanes from the acceleration lane. If you see that a vehicle is about to enter the main through lanes, reduce speed and if necessary move to the passing lane in order to allow the vehicle to enter.



In addition, when incorrectly entering a main through lane, there may be vehicles or pedestrians moving towards you. Please pay attention to information on highway bulletin boards when driving.

#### (5) Measures to Relieve Fatigue

Driving on the expressway can induce psychological fatigue, due to the continuous tension, or cause signs of drowsiness, due to the monotonous road environment. Make regular rest stops at parking areas and service areas so that you can nap or move about to relieve drowsiness, fatigue, or tenseness.



**Quick Hint**

Be careful about driving after napping

Many accidents occur within 30 minutes to an hour of a driver having taken a nap. After napping it is a good idea to move about or wash your face to make sure you are fully awake, both physically and mentally, before continuing your trip.

##### • Service Area



Service areas are located approximately every 50 kilometers along expressways.

##### • Parking Area



Parking areas are located approximately every 15 kilometers along expressways.

### Practice

Cars are about to enter the main through lanes from the acceleration lane. What should you do?



Answers on page 351.

### (3) Driving at Night

It is difficult to judge your speed when driving at night because your surroundings are dark. This makes it easy to drive too fast without realizing it. It is therefore a good idea to check the speedometer regularly.

In addition, special care is needed because obstacles become visible later than they would during the daytime, and vehicles stopped ahead of you can present the illusion of being in motion, even though they are not.



Except when passing by an oncoming vehicle, or when following other vehicles, always turn headlight high beam ON, so that a stopped vehicle due to fallen cargo or road accident, can be seen as soon as possible.

## 10 Leaving the Main Through Lanes

### 1 Precautions when Leaving the Main Through Lanes

#### (1) Confirming Exits by Looking at Guidance Signs

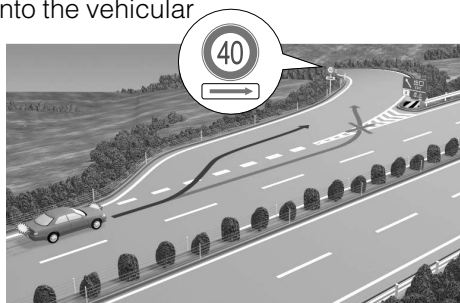
When preparing to exit the main through lanes, it is important to pay attention to the guidance signs<sup>1</sup> indicating ahead of time the direction to the destination and the exit number. Guidance signs are located 2 kilometers, 1 kilometer, and 500 meters ahead of each exit.



If you miss your exit, you must not attempt to turn around or back up. Instead, proceed to the next interchange.

#### (2) Using the Deceleration Lane

As you approach the exit, move into the vehicular lane leading to it. If there is a deceleration lane, make use of it. Do not rely on your own ability to judge speed to determine if you have reduced speed enough; check the speedometer to confirm that you are traveling at the correct speed.



#### (3) Precautions when Entering the Exit Ramp

Exit ramps can be dangerous due to tight curves and slopes. Be sure to reduce your speed sufficiently and to proceed no faster than the regulated speed limit.

\*1

Sequence of Guidance Signs Preceding Exits

① 2 km Ahead



② 1 km Ahead



③ 500 m Ahead



④ At Exit



#### Quick Hint

##### Decelerating

Reducing speed excessively while still in the main through lanes can inconvenience the drivers behind you and even lead to rear-end collisions.

Begin to reduce speed after you have entered the deceleration lane.