

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 sight-seers. In Japan they travel on dedicated roads (for example, between Murodo and Daikanbo, Toyama Prefecture, and between Kurobe Dam and Ogizawa, Toyama and Nagano Prefectures) 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. The term "automobile" does not apply to mopeds, bicycles, wheelchairs, wheeled walkers, or similar.

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 bicycles, wheelchairs, 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

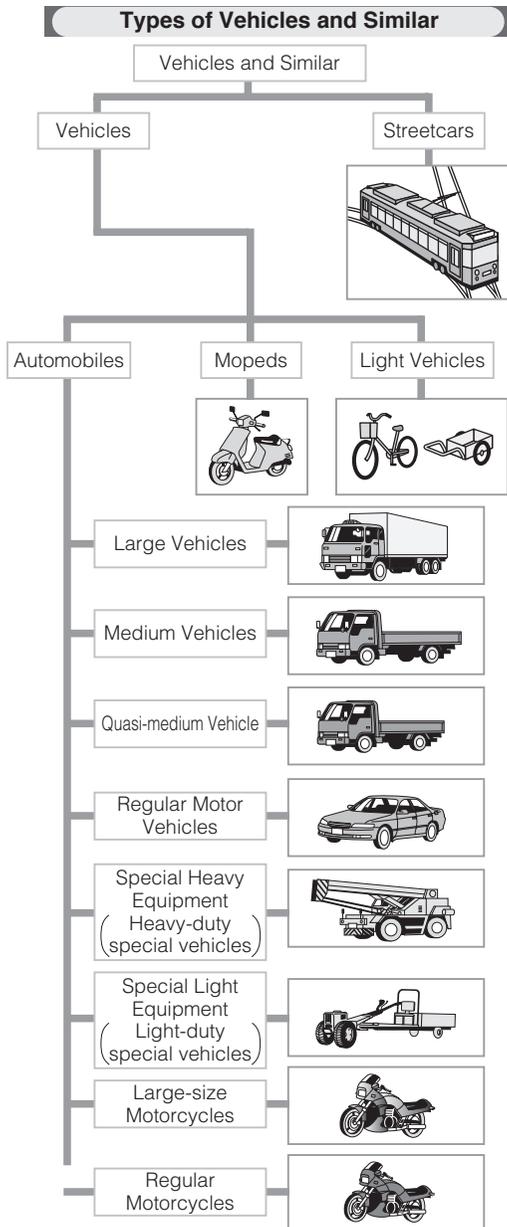
Refers to bicycles (including "hybrid" bicycles equipped with a low-output electric motor), carts, trailers, sleds, and horses and cattle. (Wheelchairs, wheeled walkers, children's toy cars, and similar are treated as pedestrians.)

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 wheelchairs, wheeled walkers, children's toy cars, or similar.

8. Streetcars (Trams)

Refers to vehicles that run on rails in the road.



Point

Correct Driving Posture

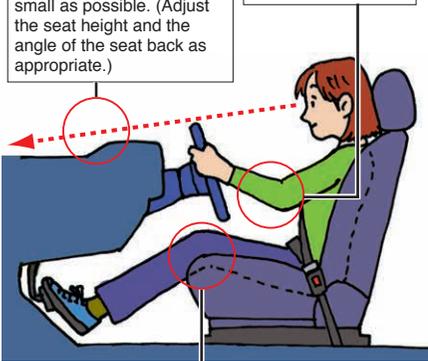
① Four-Wheeled Vehicles

Eye Height

Your eyes should be at the level such that any blind spots about your car are as small as possible. (Adjust the seat height and the angle of the seat back as appropriate.)

Elbows (Angle of Seat Back)

Your elbows should be slightly bent.



Knees (Seat Position)

Your knee should be slightly bent when you fully depress the clutch pedal (brake pedal for a car with an automatic transmission).

Note: Your body should not be tilted, and you should not drive with your elbow resting on the window ledge.

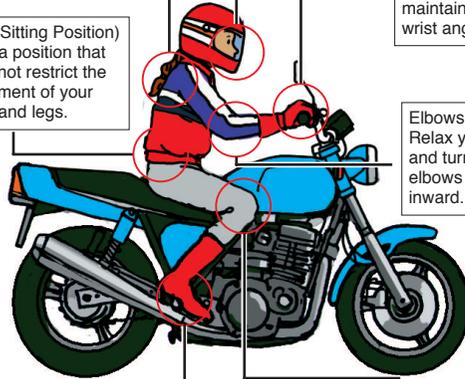
② Two-Wheeled Vehicles

Shoulders
Relax and let your back straighten naturally.

Face
Keep your chin down and your eyes facing forward to cover a wide angle of view.

Hands
Grasp the center of the grips and maintain a natural wrist angle.

Hips (Sitting Position)
Sit in a position that does not restrict the movement of your arms and legs.



Elbows
Relax your arms and turn your elbows slightly inward.

Feet
Place the arch of your foot on the step, with your toes facing forward. Keep the soles of your feet roughly flat.

Knees
Lightly press your knees against the fuel tank.

Selecting a Two-Wheeled Vehicle

- ① You should be able to set up the center kick-stand easily on level ground.



- ② When straddling the vehicle, you should be able to touch the ground with the tips of both feet.



- ③ You should be able to walk the vehicle through a full figure of eight.



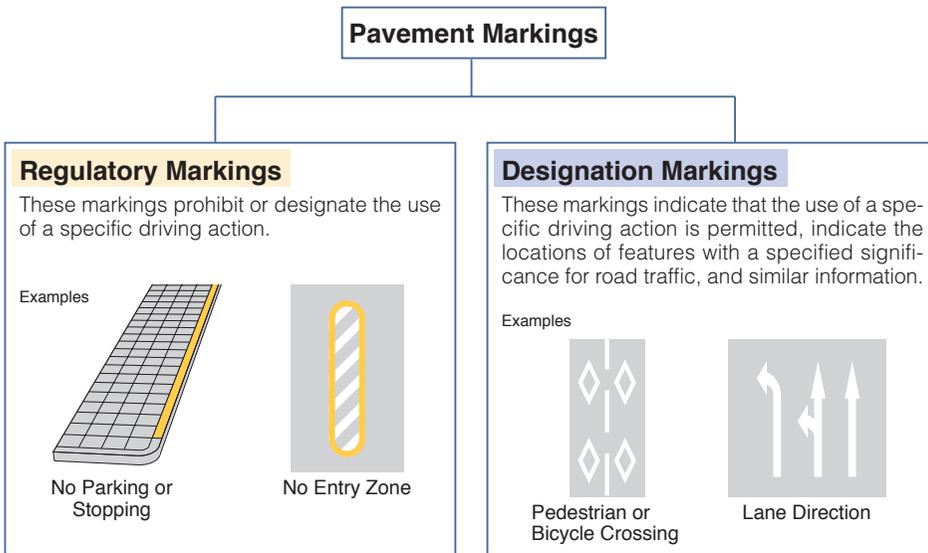
Note: When choosing a two-wheeled vehicle, be sure to select a model appropriate for your body type. Even if you are confident of your strength, it is dangerous to suddenly try to ride a large motorcycle. It is therefore a good idea to start out with something smaller and gradually work your way up to larger bikes, as your skills improve. If the driver intends to ride double on a large-size or regular motorcycle, the driver should choose a motorcycle with a pillion that is wide enough for carrying a passenger.

Behavior Prohibited on the Road

- ① Disrupting traffic by staggering drunkenly, standing and talking, sitting, or lying down on the road.
- ② Playing catch, roller skating, skateboarding, etc., on roads where traffic is heavy.
- ③ Throwing or casting objects toward the road.
- ④ Damaging the road surface or dumping wastewater, trash, nails, glass shards, etc., onto it.
- ⑤ Throwing cigarette butts, wastepaper, empty cans, etc., from a vehicle, or sticking objects or parts of the body out the windows.
- ⑥ Attempting to grab onto a moving vehicle or streetcar.
- ⑦ Shining a light toward the road that could interfere with the vision of drivers.
- ⑧ Spraying water on the road when there is reason to believe it will freeze.
- ⑨ Exhibiting products on the road or placing earth, sand, lumber, etc., on the road such that the flow of traffic is disrupted.
- ⑩ Installing neon signs colored similarly to traffic signals in the immediate vicinity of traffic signals, installing notice boards in the immediate vicinity of road signs, operating traffic signals without authorization, moving or damaging road signs or pavement markings.
- ⑪ Any behavior that rushes a driver ahead or interferes with driving.

(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

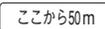
The types of traffic signs and pavement markings and their meanings are listed below.

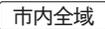
① Regulatory Signs	
<p>1. Road Closed</p> <p>(301) The road is closed to vehicles and streetcars as well as to pedestrians.</p>	<p>4. Closed to All Automobiles Except Two-Wheeled Vehicles</p> <p>(304) The road is closed to all automobiles other than two-wheeled vehicles (large-size and regular motorcycles or similar).</p>
<p>2. Closed to All Vehicles</p> <p>(302) The road is closed to vehicles (automobiles, mopeds, and light vehicles).</p>	<p>5. Closed to Large-Size Trucks, etc.</p> <p>(305) The road is closed to large-size trucks, specified medium trucks and special heavy equipment.</p>
<p>3. No Entry for Vehicles</p> <p>(303) 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>6. Closed to Trucks Carrying Loads in Excess of the Maximum Weight Specified on the Sign</p> <p>(305-2) 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>

⑤ Auxiliary Signs

1. Distance and Zone Designation

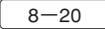
 Indicates the distance to the facility or location indicated on the main sign or the distance or zone in which the traffic regulation indicated on the main sign is in effect.

 (501)

 (501)

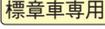
2. Applicable Day and Time

 Indicates the days or times the traffic regulation indicated on the main sign is in effect.

 (502)

3. Applicable Vehicle Types

Indicates the vehicle types to which the traffic regulation indicated on the main sign applies.

   (503-A・D)

 (503-B)

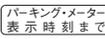
Large-size trucks, specified medium trucks and special heavy equipment

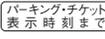
 Large passenger vehicles and specified medium passenger vehicles (503-B)

 (503-C)

Trucks with a maximum load of 3 tons or more and special heavy equipment

4. Parking Time Restrictions

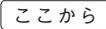
 Indicates that the vehicle may only remain parked in that location until the time displayed on the parking meter or on the parking ticket.

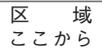
 (504-2)

5. Start of Traffic Regulation

Indicates the start of the traffic regulation indicated on the main sign.

 (505-A)

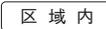
 (505-B)

 (505-C)

6. Zone or Section of Regulation

Indicates that you are inside the zone or section to which the traffic regulation indicated on the main sign applies.

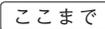
 (506)

 (506-2)

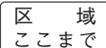
7. End of Traffic Regulation

Indicates the end of the traffic regulation indicated on the main sign.

 (507-A)

 (507-B)

 (507-C)

 (507-D)

8. School Route

 (508)

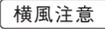
Indicates a section of the road used by children to commute to and from school.

9. Railroad Crossing

 (509-2)

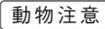
Indicates that caution is necessary due to the presence of a railroad crossing.

10. Side Wind

 (509-3)

Indicates that caution is necessary because there is a danger of sudden strong side winds.

11. Animals

 (509-4)

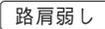
Indicates that caution is necessary because there is a danger of animals appearing on the roadway without warning.

12. Caution

 (509-5)

Indicates that vehicles and streetcars should proceed with particular caution.

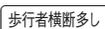
13. Caution on Specific Items

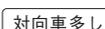
 Provides additional information to clarify the meaning of what is indicated by the main sign.

 (510)

14. Reason for Traffic Regulation

 Indicates the reason for the traffic regulation specified by the main sign.



 (510-2)

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

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 (excluding large passenger vehicles), specified medium vehicles (excluding specified medium passenger vehicles), and special heavy equipment
Large cargo, etc.	Large-size trucks and heavy special 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)



Signboards Indicating Wheel Clamp Zone



(2) Designated Maximum Speed

On roads (excluding national expressways) where no speed limit is indicated by signs or pavement markings, drivers must not exceed the maximum speed designated for their vehicle type (**the designated maximum speed**).

Classification (Vehicle Type)			Designated Maximum Speed	
Automobiles	 Large passenger vehicles	 Large-size trucks	 Medium passenger vehicles	60 km/h
	 Medium trucks	 Quasi-medium vehicles	 Regular vehicles	
	 Regular motor vehicles with a displacement of 660 cc or less	 Minicars ¹	 Special heavy equipment	
	 Towing vehicles	 Large-size motorcycles	 Regular motorcycles	
Mopeds	 Mopeds			30 km/h

Note: Refer to page 317 for information on the designated maximum speed on expressways.

*1

Minicars...

This term refers to regular motor vehicle with an engine displacement of 50 cc or less.



Quick Hint

Other Speed Limits

- The maximum speed limit for emergency vehicles is 80 km/h.
- Due to its structure, special light equipment is not allowed to exceed a speed of 15 km/h.
- Some regular motor vehicles equipped as crop spraying vehicles have a structure that limits their speed to 35 km/h.

Point

Designated Maximum Speed when Towing Another Vehicle

When towing another vehicle using a moped or similar or when towing a broken-down vehicle using a crane or a rope, drivers must not exceed the legally designated maximum speed, as indicated below, even if the speed limit indicated by signs or pavement markings is higher.

When towing a broken-down vehicle with a total weight of 2,000 kg or less using a vehicle with a total weight of three times or more of that of the vehicle being towed.		40 km/h
When towing a broken-down vehicle or similar in cases not covered by the descriptions above and below.		30 km/h
When towing another vehicle using a regular motorcycle with a displacement of 125 cc or less or rated motor output of 1.00 kW or less, or a moped.		25 km/h

3 Maintaining a Safe Speed and Distance Between Vehicles

1 Adjusting Speed to Match the Road Environment

Drivers must drive their vehicles **at a safe rate of speed** even when driving within the specified speed limit, taking into account road and traffic conditions, the weather, visibility, etc.



RT Law 70

2 Maintaining a Safe Distance Between Vehicles

Drivers must maintain a safe distance between their own vehicles and the vehicles ahead of them, taking into account the weather and the road surface, the condition of the vehicle's tires, the weight of the load being carried, etc., so as to ensure that they are able to avoid colliding with the vehicle in front should that vehicle stop suddenly.

The driver's seat in large, medium, and quasi-medium vehicles is positioned higher than in regular vehicles, giving the driver a downward perspective on the road. This position can make the distance between cars appear longer than it actually is, so drivers of these vehicles in particular need to take special care not to get too close to other vehicles.

RT Law 26

Point

Adjusting the Distance Between Vehicles to Match Conditions

- ① Following close behind a large vehicle restricts your forward field of view, making it impossible to obtain sufficient information on traffic signals, oncoming traffic, pedestrians, etc. Make sure to allow sufficient space between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead of you to provide you with adequate visibility.
- ② There is a tendency for the distances between vehicles to become shorter in tunnels due to the difficulty in judging distances and the tendency for the driver's attention to focus on the tail lights of the preceding vehicle. When driving through tunnels, make an effort to look at the entire tunnel rather than just the vehicle ahead of you and remain conscious of the need to maintain a generous distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you.

Review

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

1. The maximum permitted speed for regular trucks on general purpose roads with no speed limit indicated by signs or pavement markings is 50 kilometers per hour.
2. On general purpose roads with no speed limit indicated by signs or pavement markings the maximum permitted speed for large-size motorcycles is 60 kilometers per hour and that for regular motorcycles is 50 kilometers per hour.
3. On roads with the sign shown at right the maximum permitted speed for mopeds is 30 kilometers per hour.
4. The stopping distance increases if the driver is tired, if the road surface is wet from rain, or if the vehicle is carrying a heavy load.



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



Quick Hint

Safe Distance Between Vehicles

The stopping distance should be used as a guideline when determining a safe distance between vehicles. As a general rule when driving at speeds between 30 and 60 km/h, the distance between vehicles (in meters) should be the number indicated by the speedometer minus 15.

Note:

The above assumes a dry road surface.

Example:

When traveling at 30 km/h...

$$30 - 15 = 15$$

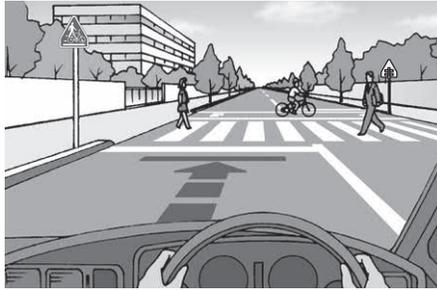
meters or more

When traveling at 60 km/h...

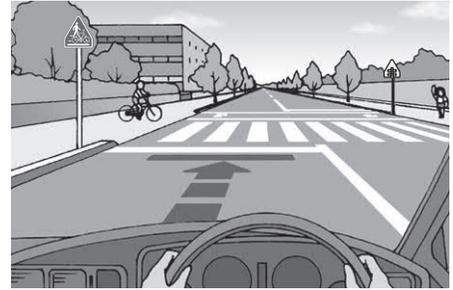
$$60 - 15 = 45$$

meters or more

- ③ **When a pedestrian (bicycle) is crossing or is about to cross**, the driver must **stop before entering the pedestrian crossing (bicycle crossing)** (behind the stop line if one exists) and allow the pedestrian (bicycle) to cross the road.



Pedestrians and a bicycle crossing the road.



A bicycle and pedestrian about to cross the road.

RT Law 38 II

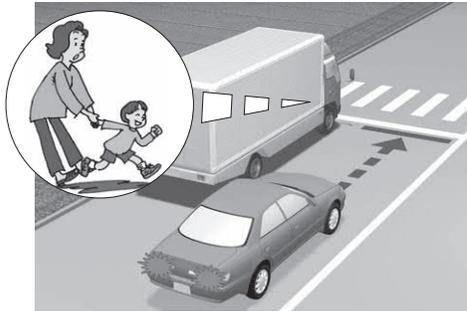
8 When Vehicles are Stopped at a Pedestrian Crossing (Bicycle Crossing)

When a vehicle is stopped at or before a pedestrian crossing (bicycle crossing), the driver must **stop before passing the stopped vehicle**.

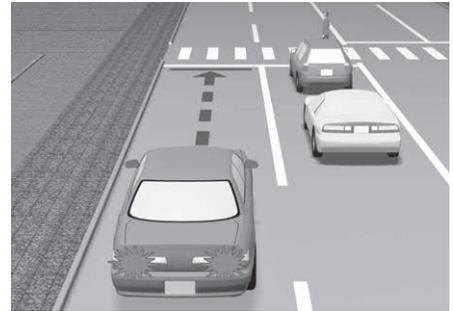
Quick Hint

The duty to stop...

The exception is when a traffic signal exists that is stopping pedestrians or bicycles from crossing.



Stop, because a pedestrian might be crossing in front of the stopped vehicle.



RT Law 30 (3),
38 III

9 Prohibition on Passing or Overtaking at a Pedestrian Crossing (Bicycle Crossing)

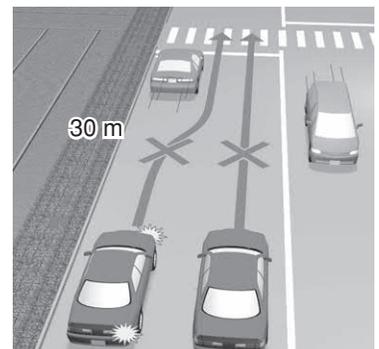
Vehicles are not permitted to pass or overtake another vehicle (except for light vehicles) at a pedestrian crossing (bicycle crossing), and **within 30 meters** of one.

Quick Hint

Passing not permitted...

No passing is permitted unless a traffic signal exists that is stopping pedestrians or bicycles from crossing.

For the difference between passing and overtaking, refer to page 110.



It is very dangerous if one does not see a person crossing because of the vehicle in front.

RT Law 38-2

10 When a Pedestrian Crosses Where There is No Pedestrian Crossing

A vehicle is **not permitted to hinder** the crossing of a pedestrian who is crossing at or near an intersection that has no pedestrian crossing.¹

Be aware that pedestrians may still cross in areas without a pedestrian crossing or bicycle crossing.

*1

To not hinder...

This means proceeding at a reduced speed, slowing down, or sometimes even stopping.

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 wheelchair.
- 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 walkers² or people with disabilities such as impaired sight or hearing, or physical handicaps) are passing.

*1

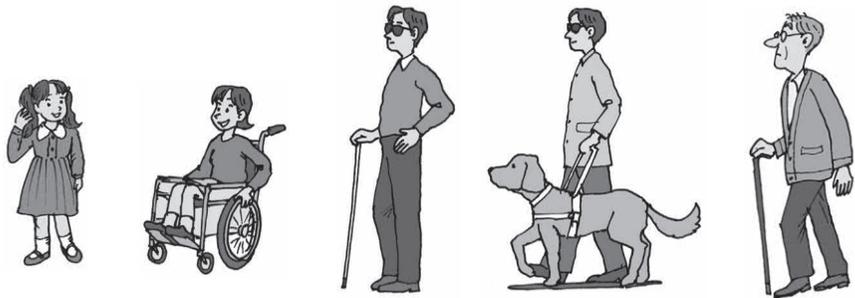
Walking unattended...

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

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)



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.

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

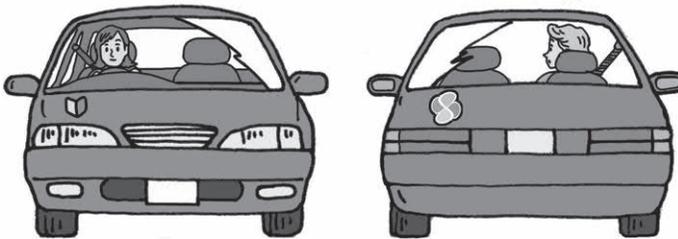
School,
Kindergarten,
Nursery

4 Looking Out for Novice Drivers, Senior Drivers, Hearing Impaired Drivers and Others

RT Law 71-5

1 Duty to Display the Novice Driver Sign or Other Sign

- ① When new drivers who have had their quasi-medium vehicle license for less than a year drive a quasi-medium motor vehicle, or when new drivers who have been driving less than one year on a regular driver's license drive a regular motor vehicle, they are required to display a **novice driver sign** (novice mark) affixed to the **front and rear** of the vehicle in the designated positions.¹
- ② When senior drivers aged 70 or over drive a regular motor vehicle, they are recommended to display a **senior driver sign** (senior driver mark) affixed to the **front and rear** of the vehicle in the designated positions.¹
- ③ When drivers with a hearing impairment permit,² drive a quasi-medium vehicle or regular motor vehicle they must display a **hearing impaired driver sign**² (hearing impaired driver mark) affixed to the **front and rear** of the vehicle in the designated positions.^{1,3}
- ④ When drivers with a physical disability permit drive a regular motor vehicle, they are recommended to display a **physically disabled driver sign** (physical disability mark) affixed to the **front and rear** of the vehicle in the designated positions.¹



* 1
Affixed to the front and rear of a vehicle at a height of between 0.4 meters and 1.2 meters from the ground in a clearly visible spot.

* 2
A hearing impairment in both ears and are unable to hear a 90dB warning sound at a distance of 10m even with hearing aids.

Senior driver marks of the old design can be used for the foreseeable future.

Quick Hint
Exceptions to the display of the novice mark

- ① A person who had a regular vehicle license for more than two years, who obtained a quasi-medium vehicle license.
- ② A person who had a large vehicle license or medium vehicle license, or quasi-medium vehicle license or regular vehicle license for more than a year, whose license lapsed, and then who obtained a new license within six months of the lapse.

* 3
Drivers with a hearing impairment must use a wide room mirror, etc. when driving. The driver nearby will take care as these drivers sometimes cannot hear car horns.

RT Law 71 (5-4)

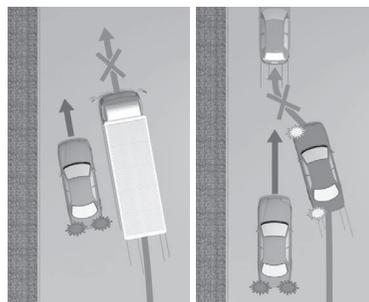
* 4
Refer to page 128 for details learner driver sign

仮免許
練習中

2 Looking Out for Vehicles Displaying a Novice Driver Sign, Learner Driver Sign, etc.

Other than in situations where they are forced to do so to avoid danger, motor vehicle drivers may not jockey for position by moving around the side of the preceding car or forcing themselves in between other cars.

- ① Regular motor vehicles bearing a novice driver sign
- ② Regular motor vehicles bearing a senior driver sign
- ③ Quasi-medium vehicles or regular vehicles bearing a hearing impaired sign
- ④ Regular motor vehicles bearing a physically disabled driver sign
- ⑤ Vehicles bearing a learner driver sign⁴



Passing too close Cutting in front

3 Types of Licenses and Vehicle Coverage

RT Law 84 II • III,
85, 86

(1) License Classifications

Driver's licenses are classified into the following three types.

First-class license (category 1)	Required to operate automobiles and mopeds. (Excludes those vehicles that require a second-class license.)
Second-class license (category 2)	Required to operate a bus, taxi or other vehicle that transports fee-paying passengers, or a designated driving service's regular motor vehicle. ¹
Learner's permit	Required to operate a large vehicle, a medium vehicle, a quasi-medium vehicle or regular motor vehicle for the purpose of learning to drive or taking a driving test.

* 1
Refers to a regular passenger car operated by drivers working for a designated driving service operator (primarily for driving home people who have drunk alcohol).

Quick Hint

A passenger bus or taxi can be driven without a second-class license if this is to return the vehicle or for another reason that does not involve carrying passengers.

(2) Types of First-class Licenses

There are ten types of first-class licenses. The table below indicates which types of vehicles can be driven with each license.

Vehicle qualified to drive / Type of first-class license (minimum age)	Large vehicle	Medium vehicle	Quasi-medium vehicles	Regular motor vehicle	Special heavy equipment	Large-size motorcycle	Regular motorcycle	Special light equipment	Moped
Large (21)	●	●	●	●				●	●
Medium (20)		●	●	●				●	●
Quasi-medium (18)			●	●				●	●
Regular (18)				● ^{※1}				●	●
Special heavy equipment (18)					●			●	●
Large-size motorcycle (18)						● ^{※2}	● ^{※1}	●	●
Regular motorcycle (16)							● ^{※1} ● ^{※3}	●	●
Special light equipment (16)								●	
Moped (16)									●
Towing license (18)	This type of license is required to tow a vehicle that weighs in excess of 750 kg by using a large vehicle, a medium vehicle, a quasi-medium vehicle, regular motor vehicle, or heavy special equipment. ^{※4}								

※1
Only automobiles with automatic transmission can be driven with a license that specifies automatic transmissions only.

※2
Only motorcycles with automatic transmissions and a displacement of 650 cc or less can be operated with a license that specifies automatic transmissions only.

※3
Only motorcycles with a displacement of 125 cc or less or rated motor output of 1.00 kW or less can be operated with a license that specifies small motorcycles only.

※4
Only camping trailers or other trailers weighing a total of less than 2,000 kg can be towed with a license that specifies small trailers only.

Point

Types of Automobiles, etc.

Large vehicle	<p>Applies to a vehicle that meets any one of the following conditions and is not heavy special equipment, a large-size or regular motorcycle, or light special equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross vehicle weight: 11,000 kg or over • Maximum load capacity: 6,500 kg or over • Seating capacity: 30 passengers or more 		
Medium Vehicle	<p>This applies to a vehicle that meets any one of the following conditions and is not a large vehicle, heavy special equipment, a regular or large-size motorcycle, or light special equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross vehicle weight: from 7,500kg or over to below 11,000kg • Maximum payload capacity: from 4,500kg or over to below 6,500kg • Seating capacity: 11 to 29 passengers 		
Quasi-medium vehicles	<p>This applies to a vehicle that meets any one of the following conditions and is not a large vehicle, medium vehicle, heavy special equipment, a regular or large-size motorcycle, or light special equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross vehicle weight: from 3,500kg or over to below 7,500kg • Maximum payload capacity: from 2,000kg or over to below 4,500kg 		
Regular motor vehicle	<p>A vehicle that meets all of the following conditions and is not a large vehicle, a medium vehicle, quasi-medium vehicle, heavy special equipment, a large-size or regular motorcycle, or light special equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross vehicle weight: Less than 3,500 kg • Maximum load capacity: Less than 2,000 kg • Seating capacity: 10 passengers or less <p>Note: A "minicar" refers to a regular motor vehicle with an engine displacement of 50 cc or less, or rated motor output of 0.60 kW or less.</p>		
Special heavy equipment	<p>A vehicle used for special operations with special construction, such as wheeled or caterpillar style equipment, that does not fall into the category of light special equipment in terms of maximum speed and body size.</p>		
Large-size motorcycle	<p>A two-wheeled vehicle with an engine displacement of more than 400 cc (including a motorcycle with sidecar)</p>		
Regular motorcycle	<p>A two-wheeled vehicle with an engine displacement over 50 cc up to 400 cc (including a motorcycle with sidecar)</p>		
Special light equipment	<p>Special equipment that meets all of the following conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum speed of 15 km/h or less • 4.7 m or less in length, 1.7 m or less in width and 2.0 m or less in height (2.8 m or less in height for vehicles with safety devices, but the vehicle itself may not exceed 2.0 m) 		
Moped	<p>A two-wheeled vehicle with an engine displacement of 50 cc or less or rated motor output of 0.60 kW or less (including three-wheeled mopeds), or a vehicle with three or more wheels with an engine displacement of 20 cc or less or rated motor output of 0.25 kW or less</p>		

*1

A Learner's Permit is required when trying to obtain a second-class driver's license, in the following circumstances:

- ① When a person with a quasi-medium vehicle licence, or first-class regular motor vehicle licence is attempting to obtain a second-class large vehicle licence or second-class medium licence.
- ② When a person with a first-class medium vehicle licence is attempting to obtain a second-class large vehicle licence.
- ③ When a person with a special heavy equipment licence is attempting to obtain a second-class large vehicle licence, second-class medium vehicle licence, or second-class regular licence.



Quick Hint

Never drive alone...

Even with a learner's permit, it is extremely dangerous to drive without a person in the car who is qualified to drive the car. You should never do this.

Driving alone is a "Driving illegally with a learner's permit" for which your learner's permit will be revoked.

6 Driving on a Learner's Permit

(1) When a Learner's Permit is Required

In the following circumstances, those who wish to obtain a first-class driver's license must obtain a license appropriate for the kind of automobile being driven¹:

- ① When a person is learning to drive a large vehicle, a medium vehicle, a quasi-medium vehicle, or a regular motor vehicle on a road
- ② When a person is driving a large vehicle, a medium vehicle, a quasi-medium vehicle, or a regular motor vehicle on a road in order to take a licensing test or a graduation test at a designated driving school.

(2) Term of Validity for a Learner's Permit

The term of validity for a learner's permit is six months from the date of issue.

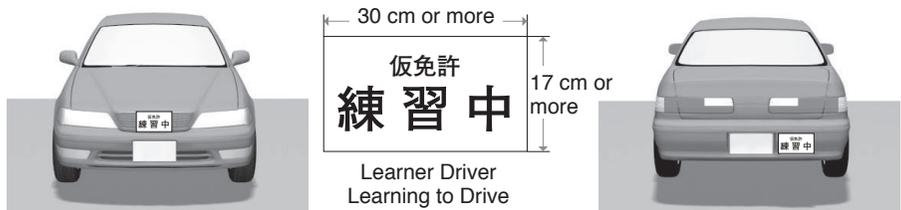
(3) Learning to Drive on a Learner's Permit

When a person with a learner's permit drives a large vehicle, a medium vehicle, a quasi-medium vehicle, or regular motor vehicle for the purpose of learning, he or she must have one of the following people **sitting next to him or her in the front seat** and must drive under this person's instruction.

- ① A driving instructor of a designated driving school (only when actually driving for practice)
- ② A person who has held a first-class license for driving the vehicle for 3 years or more
- ③ A person who holds a second-class license for driving the vehicle

(4) Displaying a "Learner Driver" Sign

When a vehicle is being driven on a learner's permit for the purpose of driving for practice, a **"learner driver" sign** must be displayed in the designated positions at the front and rear of the vehicle.



Affixed between 0.4 meters and 1.2 meters from the ground in a clearly visible spot.

2 Renewing a Driver's License, etc.

1 Submitting Notification of Changes to Information Listed on Driver's License

- ① When one's personal information changes due to a change of address, marriage, or other reason, it is important to report the change as early as possible to one's local public safety commission.
- ② If one's driver's license is lost, stolen or damaged, it is possible to apply to one's local public safety commission for the license to be reissued.

(3) Duties of a License Renewer

When renewing a driver's license, the holder must undergo the **renewal course** offered according to his or her classification. The content and time required for each course varies according to classification.

Classification	Type of Course	Time (min.)
Exemplary driver	Course for exemplary drivers	30
Ordinary driver	Course for ordinary drivers	60
Driver with violations, etc.	Course for drivers who have committed traffic violations	120
	Course for drivers who have held a license for less than five years.	120

A person who has undergone a specially designated course¹ provided by a public safety commission or other organization within a specified period prior to renewal is exempt from taking these courses.

(4) Invalidation of a Driver's License

If a driver's license is not renewed, the license becomes invalid.

Point

When a Driver's License is Invalidated

After a license has been invalidated, a person is required to take the licensing examinations over again in order to obtain another license. In the following instances, however, when the person takes a designated course², he or she will be exempt from taking part of the licensing exams.

① Within six months of the date of invalidation...

A person is exempt from taking the driving test and written test, and need only pass the qualifying examination to be issued a new driver's license.

② If for an unavoidable reason such as illness or being overseas a person is unable to take the qualifying examination within six months of the date of invalidation...

If a person applies, with documentation proving the validity of the reason, within one month of the date that the reason no longer applies, that person will be exempt from taking the driving test and written test.

However, if more than three years have passed since the expiration date for the term of validity, this exemption no longer applies.

4 Senior Driver's Course

If a person planning to apply for a license renewal will be **70 years old or over** on the last day of the renewal period, that person must take a senior driver's course given by a public safety commission or other organization within the six months prior to the last day of the renewal period.³ In addition, those who will be **75 years old or over** will take a cognitive function test, and based on those results, will have to take a senior driver's course or special qualifying examination.

*1

Specially designated course...

- ① A person who has taken a senior driver's course within six months of the expiration date for the renewal period.
- ② A person who has taken a course or educational course mandated by government ordinance within six months of renewal.

*2

Designated course...

A renewal course, senior driver's course, etc.



Quick Hint

If it has been more than six months from the date of license invalidation but less than one year, a person is exempt from part of the learner's permit examinations required to reobtain a license.

RT Law 101-4
102

*3

A person who has taken a course or educational course mandated by government ordinance within the six months prior to the last day of the renewal period is exempt from taking this course.

RT Law 101-7
102

RT Law 104-4

5 Special Cognitive Function Test and Special Senior Driver's Course

Drivers age 75 or older who violate certain traffic rules due to behaviors commonly associated with cognitive decline are required to take a Special Cognitive Function Test. If it is determined from the results that cognitive decline may affect the person's driving, they will have to take a Special Senior Driver's Course. If the examination results indicate that the person may have dementia, they will have to either take a Special Qualifying Function Test or submit a medical certificate from their doctor.

6 Cancellation of a Driver's License by Application

When a driver's license is no longer needed, an application can be made to one's local public safety commission for cancellation of the license.

At such time, if the holder so requests, it is possible to obtain a different type of license¹, or have one's driving record² issued.

Review

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

1. On a large vehicle license you can drive a large vehicle, a medium vehicle, quasi-medium vehicle, heavy special equipment, regular motor vehicle, light special equipment, and a moped.
2. When driving for practice on a learner's permit, a "learner driver" sign must be displayed on either the front or back of the car.
3. On a regular motorcycle license it is permissible to drive a motorcycle with an engine displacement of 550 cc.

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

3 The Points System

1 Outline of the Points System

The points system is designed to remove dangerous drivers from the road. The driver of an automobile or moped is assessed a certain number of points for a traffic violation or for causing a traffic accident. These points are **accumulated for three years**; when the total number of points reaches a certain level that person's driver's license will be suspended or revoked.

Note: Novice drivers may be required to take an additional training course.

2 Violations and Points

(1) Basic Points

① General violation of the law

Comparatively minor infractions are assessed one, two, or three points, while major violations such as drunk driving, driving without a license, and aiding and abetting dangerous driving are assessed a heavier penalty from 6 to 25 points.

*1
Different type of license...

For example, if you wish to keep driving on a regular motor vehicle license when canceling your medium vehicle license, it is possible to obtain a lower-grade license.

*2
Driving record...

A document that displays a person's driving history for the five years prior to the cancellation date. It can be used in place of a driver's license as proof of identification.

RT Law 106-2

4 Revocation of a Learner's Permit

If something such as a mental or physical disability that may interfere with driving happens to a person who has obtained a learner's permit, criteria for a revocation are met due to traffic violations¹, the person incites a driver to commit a grievous violation, or that person's use of a vehicle not on a road has led to death or injury, his or her learner's permit will be revoked.

*1
This includes driving alone without a qualified instructor in the car.

RT Law 107

5 Returning a Driver's License

In the following cases a driver's license must be returned to the local public safety commission as quickly as possible.

- ① If the license is revoked.
- ② If the license is invalidated.
- ③ After being reissued a license, when the license that was lost or stolen has been found or recovered. In this case it is necessary to return the previous (old) license that has been found or recovered.

Quick Hint

When your license has been suspended

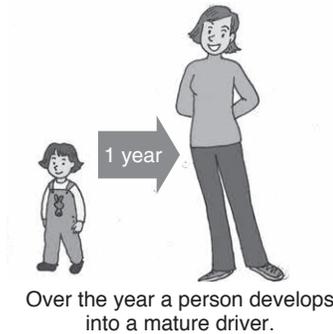
You must quickly present your license to your local public safety commission. In this case, when the suspension period is over, your license will be returned.

RT Law 100-2

5 Novice-Driver Term System

1 Novice-Driver Term

The period of one year² after obtaining a quasi-medium vehicle licence, regular license, large-size motorcycle license, regular motorcycle license, or moped license, is called the **novice-driver term**.



*2
Period of one year... This excludes any period of time that the license is suspended.

Point

When a higher-grade license is obtained during the novice-driver term

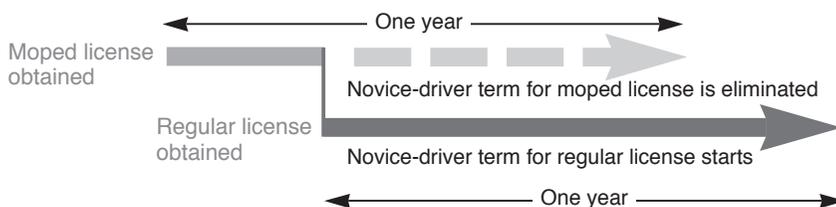
When a license for driving a different type of vehicle (higher-grade license) is obtained during the novice-driver term, the novice-driver term on the previous license is eliminated.

Example: Within one year of obtaining a moped license a person obtains a regular license.

Quick Hint

The novice-driver term is a dangerous time when the probability of causing a traffic accident or traffic violation is high.

This is an extremely important period of time for becoming a good driver by following traffic regulations and driving carefully.



*1

Certain level...

- ① If the number of points assessed due to infractions totals three points or more (excluding when a single violation is assessed three points).
- ② If a person who has been assessed three points for a single violation commits a second infraction that increases the points total to four or more.



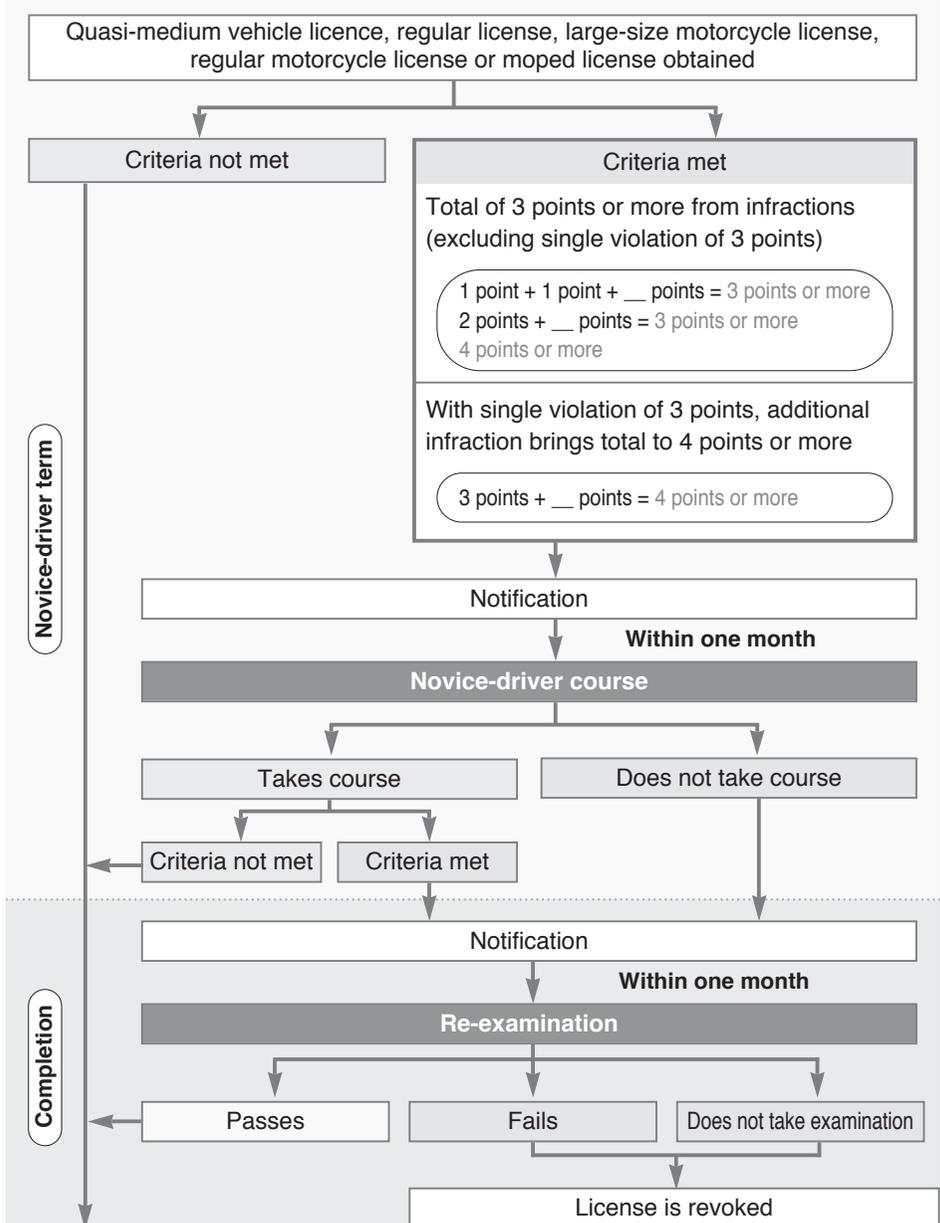
Quick Hint

- ① Those who accumulate 15 points or more on infractions will have their license revoked, and the novice-driver term system does not apply.
- ② For those who have had their license revoked on the novice-driver term system, a disqualification period does not apply.

2 Novice-Driver Course and Re-examination

- ① If a person meets certain criteria¹ for different licenses, by committing traffic violations during the novice-driver term for example, the person receives notification of the availability of a **novice-driver course**. This course can be taken within one month of receiving the notification.
- ② If the novice-driver course is not taken, or having taken the course the person commits another traffic violation before the novice-driver term is over, when the total number of points reaches a certain level¹, when the novice-driver term is over, the person must **retake the examination**.
- ③ A person who does not pass the re-examination, or who fails to retake the examination without sufficient justification, will have his or her license revoked.

● Process Leading to Completion of the Novice-Driver Term



● 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 injuries 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									
Hospitalized for less than 15 days	45										
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 at an intersection	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	20	
	Below 50%	2	1	14	14	30	25	20	15	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	
Ignoring the order to adopt measures on a national expressway	2	14	12	9	7	
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	
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 passage	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	6
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	6	4		
No sticker for Drivers' with Auditory Difficulties on his/her car	1	14	6	4		
Interfering with emergency vehicles on a main road	1	14	7	6	6	
Violation of the rules governing the entry/exit from a main through lane	1	14	6	4	4	
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	
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, quasi-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) Traveling at slow speeds

Two-wheeled vehicles equipped with an automatic transmission have a function which prevents engine power from being transmitted to the wheels when the engine revolutions per minute are low. Because of this, completely releasing the throttle when traveling at low speeds will prevent engine power from being transmitted to the wheels and cause the vehicle to destabilize. Exercise caution.



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.

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

2 Driving Advanced Safety Vehicles (ASVs)

Vehicles with advanced safety features, or ASVs, are equipped with systems that use the latest technologies to encourage safe driving. These systems are no more than assistive technologies, however, and still require that the driver take responsibility for driving safely. If you drive an ASV, make sure you clearly understand their limitations and the caution they require, taking care not to over-rely on their technologies.

Point

Main practical functions of advanced safety vehicles

① Collision avoidance systems

These systems use radar and cameras to detect vehicles and obstacles and how far they are from the front of the vehicle. When there is a risk of collision, the system alerts the driver to danger and may automatically apply the brakes.

② Lane departure warning systems

These systems use on-board cameras to keep track of lane markings and make it easier for the driver to stay in their lane on straight highways. They may supplement steering wheel operation, or issue a warning when the driver is about to wander out of the lane.

③ Autonomous cruise control (ACC) systems

These systems keep the vehicle at a set speed while maintaining an appropriate following distance by adjusting to the speed of the vehicle ahead.

④ Electronic stability control (ESC) system

These systems use sensors to detect when the vehicle might be sliding sideways on slippery road surfaces, applying the brakes to each wheel as needed in order to correct its course.



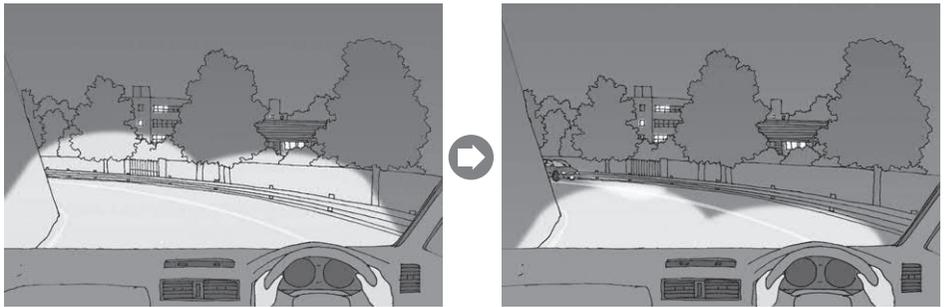
3 Vehicle Lighting

1 Interior Lights

Automobiles should not turn on interior lights, with the exception of buses.

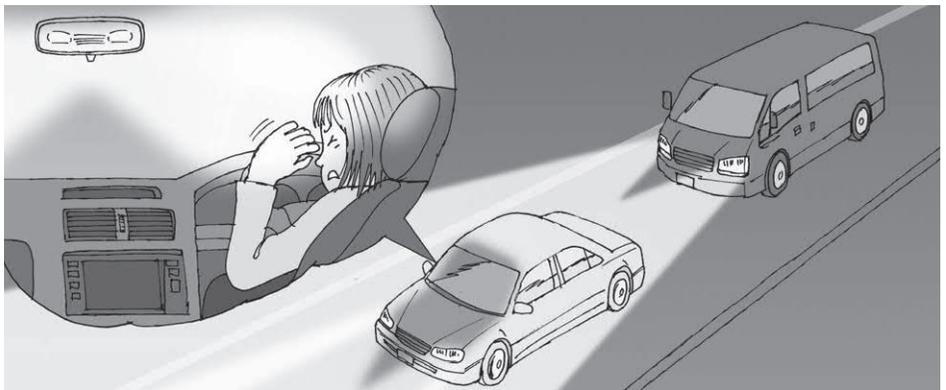
2 Controlling Headlights and Avoiding Being Temporarily Blinded by Oncoming vehicles

A If you are not in an urban situation with heavy traffic, it is best to drive with your high beams on so that pedestrians and others will notice them sooner. It is important, however, that you switch back to your low beams when passing oncoming traffic or driving behind another vehicle.



Lower headlights to avoid blinding a driver in an oncoming vehicle.

B On busy roads in urban areas, headlights should be kept on low. When the lights of an oncoming vehicle are blinding, you should avoid looking directly at the oncoming vehicle's headlights.¹



If you drive a car behind another car with your high beams on, a driver in the car ahead will be blinded by reflected light in the rear-view mirror.

RT Law 52II
Enforcement
Ordinance 20

* 1
See page 207.



Quick Hint

Anti-glare rearview mirror

Anti-glare rearview mirrors can be used to reduce the glare from the headlights of vehicles coming from behind by pulling the lever under the mirror.

8 In the Event of Earthquakes

1 When the Warning Declaration Concerning an Earthquake Disaster is Issued

As for the Tokai earthquake, all parts of Shizuoka prefecture and a part of Tokyo, Kanagawa, Yamanashi, Nagano, Gifu, Aichi and Mie prefectures are designated as an intensified area where a large-scale earthquake disaster is likely to occur. (Act on Special Measures concerning Countermeasure against Large-scale Earthquake.)



When a large-scale earthquake is most likely to happen soon and emergency measures against the earthquake disaster prevention needs to be implemented urgently in this intensified area, the Prime Minister is supposed to proclaim a warning declaration.

If the warning declaration is proclaimed, all vehicles are prohibited or restricted to pass. Drivers within the intensified area should take the following measures.

(1) When the warning declaration is proclaimed while driving

Reduce speed fully to be prepared for occurrence of the earthquake and listen to the earthquake information and traffic information by car radio for a four-wheeled vehicle and by other available for a two-wheeled vehicle. Then act accordingly.

If you abandon your car to evacuate, move the car off the road, if possible. If you need to leave a car on the road to evacuate, pull the car over to the left side of the road and 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 the place where it will hinder people from passing or obstruct the implementation of emergency measures against prevention of the earthquake.

Point

When you abandon your car to evacuate

The reason why you should leave the engine key and keep the doors unlocked is so that the car can be moved if the car hinders emergency vehicles. Also, the reason why you should close windows is to prevent flames from coming into the car.

- 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.

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.

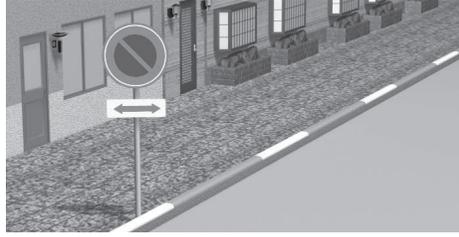
- A Immediately move a car to the place where the traffic control is not implemented.
- B If moving a car immediately is difficult, park it so as not to hinder emergency vehicles, such as parking along the left edge of the road.
- C Follow the instructions of policemen and move or park a car.

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.

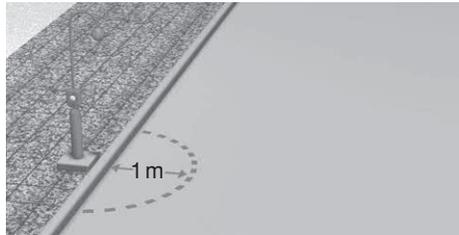
3 Locations Where Parking Is Prohibited

Parking a vehicle is not allowed in the following locations. However, parking is allowed if you have a permit from the chief of police¹.

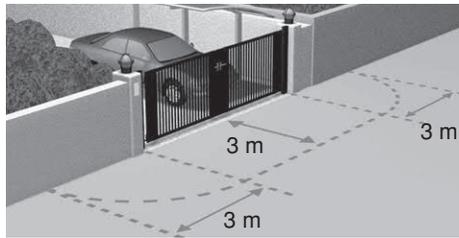
- ① Locations where there is a sign or pavement marking indicating “no parking”



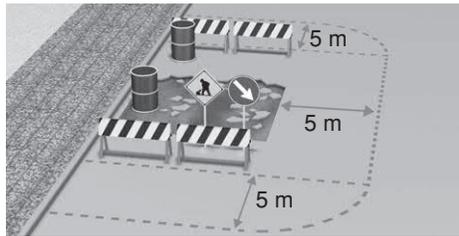
- ② **Within 1 meter** of a fire alarm



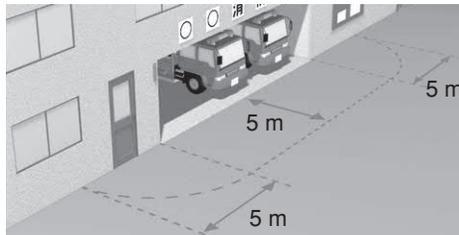
- ③ **Within 3 meters** of the entrance to a parking lot, garage, or similar



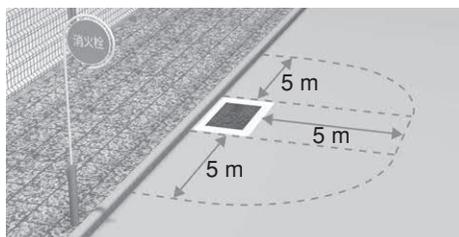
- ④ **Within 5 meters** from the edge of a road construction site



- ⑤ **Within 5 meters** of a firefighting water tank or a place where firefighting equipment is stored, or of an entrance close to the road



- ⑥ **Within 5 meters** of a fire hydrant, a sign indicating the presence of a designated firefighting water supply², or the inlet port of a firefighting water tank



*1
Permit from the chief of police...

Vehicles used for moving and ceremonial occasions (weddings, funerals, etc.) and vehicles used for the public good can park in these locations if they obtain a permit from the chief of police.

*2
Sign indicating the presence of designated fire fighting water supply...

These signs indicate the presence of a fire fighting water tank or reservoir.



RT Law 71 (5-2)



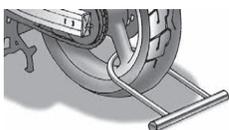
Quick Hint

Immobilizer

The immobilizer is a device to prevent the vehicle from getting stolen. The car with an immobilizer will not start unless the code (ID code) transmitted from the key matches the computer installed in the vehicle. With its high performance, the device is coming into widespread use as one of the best methods of preventing auto theft.

*1

Cycle lock



VCP Law 3, 9

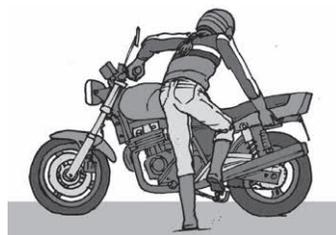
*1

Two-wheeled vehicles...

There are no legal regulations regarding obtaining a parking place for two-wheeled vehicles, but you should find a location other than on the road.

(2) Two-wheeled Vehicles

- ① Select a location where the road surface is level and firm.
- ② Support the motorcycle with a center stand. (When using a side stand, put the motorcycle into first gear and turn the handlebars to the left.)



2 Anti-theft Measures

Stolen vehicles are often used to commit crimes. In order to prevent such an occurrence, as well as avoid having your vehicle stolen, take the following measures before leaving your vehicle.

(1) Four-wheeled Vehicles

- ① Turn off the engine and take the engine key with you.
- ② Close the windows and lock the doors.
- ③ Activate any steering wheel locking devices or other anti-theft devices your vehicle is provided with.
- ④ Put valuables that will not be carried with you into the trunk and lock the trunk.

(2) Motorcycles

- ① Lock the handlebars and remove the key.
- ② Attach a cycle lock¹ (wheel locking device) or other device.

6 Obtaining a Parking Place

1 Obtaining a Parking Place

The owner, user, or person in charge of an automobile (excluding two-wheeled motor vehicles¹) must obtain a personal parking place for the automobile that is not on a road and is **within 2 km** of the address or other base position from which the automobile will be used.

Point

Procedure for Automobiles That Do Not Have a Parking Place

Automobiles that do not have a parking place will be tagged with a driving prohibited sticker and driving of such vehicles is prohibited.

The driving prohibited sticker will be removed by a police officer when it has been confirmed that a parking place has been obtained for the vehicle. Do not damage the driving prohibited sticker, or remove it yourself.

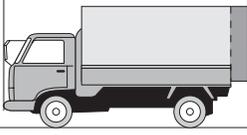
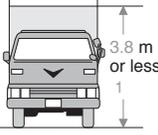
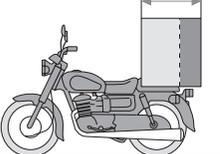
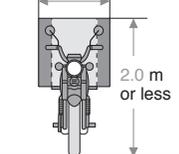
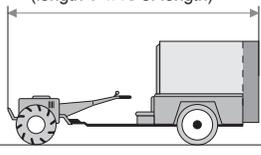
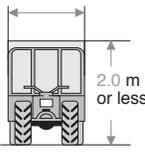


3 Restrictions on Passengers and Vehicle Loading

1 Seating Capacities and Loading Restrictions

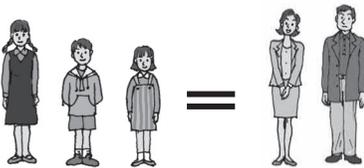
The driver of a vehicle must not attempt to carry more than the established seating capacity (including the driver) or more than the restrictions on cargo allow.

● Seating Capacities and Loading Restrictions

Type of Vehicle	Seating Capacity	Loading Capacity	Size and Carrying Method of Cargo
Regular motor vehicles, quasi-medium vehicles, medium vehicles, large vehicles, and special heavy equipment	As noted on the automobile inspection certificate or the compact car registration certificate. (Minicars seat one person.)	As noted on the automobile inspection certificate or the compact car registration certificate. (Minicars can carry 30 kg.)	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Length of automobile 1.1 or less (length + 1/10 of length)</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Width of automobile or less</p>  </div> </div> <p>Heights up to 2.5 m or less are allowed for three-wheeled regular motor vehicles and regular motor vehicles whose total engine displacement is 660 cc or less.</p>
Regular motorcycles and large-size motorcycles (excluding motorcycles with side cars)	1 (2 people may ride if there is a seat other than the driver's seat.)	60 kg	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Length of the carrying device + 0.3 m or less</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Width of the carrying device + 0.15 m or less left and right sides</p>  </div> </div>
Mopeds	1	30 kg	
Special light equipment	1 (2 people may ride if there is a seat other than the driver's seat.)	500 kg	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Length of automobile 1.1 or less (length + 1/10 of length)</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Width of automobile or less</p>  </div> </div>

How to Calculate Seating Capacity When Carrying Children

Count three children under 12 years of age as two adults.



Calculation of seating capacity
 (Seating capacity – number of adults riding)
 1.5 = number of children who can ride
Note: Discard the portion after the decimal point.

Practice example

If 2 adults are riding in an automobile having a seating capacity of 5 people, how many children can ride?

Answer

children

RT Law 57 I
 Enforcement
 Ordinance 22, 23
 Safety Standard
 53 II

*1 Height Restrictions of Loading Methods

Depending upon the road and driving conditions, there are special circumstances in which the Public Safety Commission has determined that a vehicle height not exceeding 4.1m is acceptable, if it is determined that there are no road obstructions.

Quick Hint

What are the restrictions regarding special-type regular motor vehicles and special heavy equipment?

The seating capacity and the maximum load of the following vehicles is as follows:

- ① Regular agricultural-use vehicles used for spraying pesticides that cannot travel at speeds greater than 35 km/hr:
 Seating capacity: 1 Person
 Loading capacity: 1,500 kg
- ② Special heavy equipment used for agricultural work that cannot travel at speeds greater than 35km/hr
 Seating capacity: 1 Person
- ③ Special heavy equipment 4.7m or less in length, 1.7m or less in width and 2.8m or less in height that cannot travel at speeds greater than 15km/hr
 Seating capacity: 1 Person
 Loading capacity: 1,000 kg

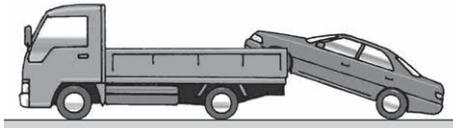
Note: See answer on following page.

3 How to Tow a Broken-down Vehicle by Raising the Front or Rear Wheels

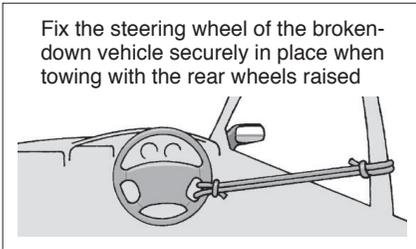
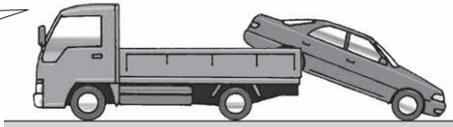
Raise the front or rear wheels of the broken-down vehicle using the crane of the towing vehicle, or place the front or rear wheels of the broken-down vehicle onto the rear end of the towing vehicle and fasten securely to that area using a rope or similar.

When raising the rear wheels, fix the steering wheel securely in place so that the front wheels are aligned with the central axis of the broken-down vehicle.

• Towing with the front wheels raised



• Towing with the rear wheels raised



2 Restrictions on Towing

RT Law 59 II

The following restrictions must be observed when towing.

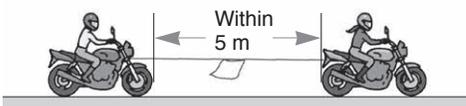
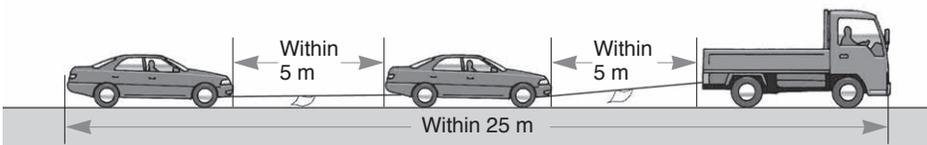
Only if a public safety commission has designated a road or given permission to tow at a certain time can these restrictions be disregarded.¹

① Restriction on Number of Vehicles

When using a large vehicle, a medium vehicle, quasi-medium vehicles, regular motor vehicle, or special heavy equipment to tow: maximum 2 vehicles
 When using a large-size motorcycle, regular motorcycle, or special light equipment to tow: maximum 1 vehicle

② Restriction on Length

Length from front of towing vehicle to back of last towed vehicle: within 25 meters



* 1
 Refer to page 83 for designated maximum speed when towing another vehicle.

1 Registering an Automobile (Notification) and Inspection

RTV Law 4, 19,
73, 97-3

1 Registering an Automobile

Automobiles (excluding light special equipment and regular motorcycles with an engine displacement of 125 cc or less or rated motor output of 1.00 kW or less) must be **registered** (by **notification**) and bear an **identification plate** (license plate).

● Identification Plates for Four-Wheeled Vehicles

More than 660 cc		660 cc or less	
Private use	Commercial use	Private use	Commercial use
品川 500 さ . . 46	品川 500 あ . . 46	品川 500 さ 20-46	品川 400 り 20-46

● Identification Plates for Two-Wheeled Vehicles

More than 250 cc		More than 125 cc, 250 cc or less	
Private use	Commercial use	Private use	Commercial use
山形 い 20-46	山形 り 20-46	山形 い . . 46	山形 り . . 46

Note: Light special equipment, regular motorcycles with an engine displacement of 125 cc or less or rated motor output of 1.00 kW or less, and mopeds are subject to different regulations.

Point

Identification Plate Class Numbers and Types of Automobiles



The identification plates for four-wheeled vehicles are classified as follows, according to type of automobile.

Identification Plate Class Numbers	Automobile Classification
1, 10 - 19, 100 - 199	Truck (more than 2000 cc)
2, 20 - 29, 200 - 299	Passenger vehicles with a seating capacity of 11 passengers or more
3, 30 - 39, 300 - 399	Passenger vehicles with a seating capacity of 10 passengers or less (more than 2000 cc)
4, 40 - 49, 400 - 499	Truck (over 660cc to 2000cc or less)
6, 60 - 69, 600 - 699	Truck (more than 50 cc, 660 cc or less)
40 - 49, 400 - 499, 600 - 699	Truck (more than 50 cc, 660 cc or less)
5, 50 - 59, 500 - 599	Passenger vehicle (over 660cc to 2000cc or less)
7, 70 - 79, 700 - 799	Passenger vehicle (more than 50 cc, 660 cc or less)
50 - 59, 500 - 599, 700 - 799	Passenger vehicle (more than 50 cc, 660 cc or less)
8, 80 - 89, 800 - 899	Vehicle for special use (sprinkler truck, promotional vehicle, practice vehicle at driving school, hearse, etc.)
9, 90 - 99, 900 - 999	Special heavy equipment
0, 00 - 09, 000 - 099	Special heavy equipment (equipment for architecture)

Note: These categories may not apply to you depending on the size of your vehicle. Large-size motorcycles and regular motorcycles (more than 250 cc) have no class number. The class number for regular motorcycles more than 125 cc and 250 cc or less starts with a "1."

2 Speed and Distance Between Vehicles

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

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 lanes¹ 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.

*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

● 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"> Large passenger vehicles Medium passenger vehicles Medium trucks with a gross weight below 8 tons, maximum payload below 5 tons, and seating capacity of 10 passengers or less Quasi-medium Vehicle Regular motor vehicles² (Excluding three-wheel and towing vehicles) 		100 km/h	50 km/h
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-size motorcycles Regular motorcycles³ 			
		80 km/h	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-size trucks 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 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three-wheeled regular motor vehicles 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special heavy equipment 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towing vehicles (trailer) 			

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.

 **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.