

## Explanation of Key Terms

# WORDS

### 1. Vehicles and similar

Refers to vehicles and streetcars.

### 2. Vehicles

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

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



### 3. Automobiles

An automobile is a self-propelled vehicle that does not need to follow tracks or overhead wires. The term “automobile” does not apply to mopeds, light vehicles, wheelchairs and wheeled walkers or similar (including kiddie cars and buggies).

### 4. Mopeds

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

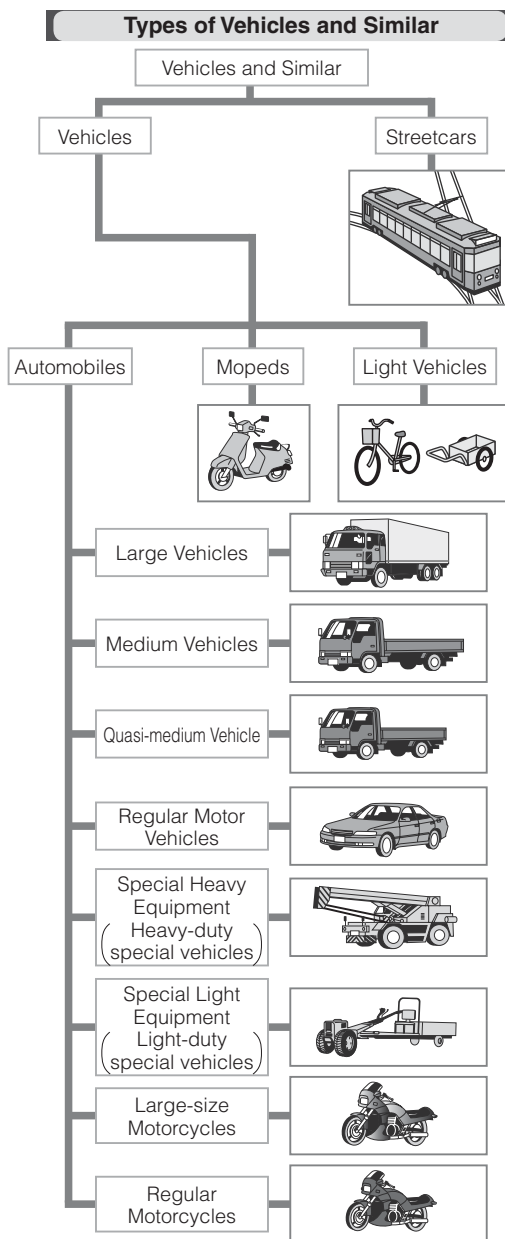
Refers to bicycles (including “hybrid” bicycles equipped with a low-output electric motor), carts, trailers, sleds, and horses and cattle. (Including self-propelled vehicles like electric carriers legally defined. Wheelchairs, wheeled walkers or similar are treated as pedestrians.)

### 7. Bicycles

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

### 8. Streetcars (Trams)

Refers to vehicles that run on rails in the road.

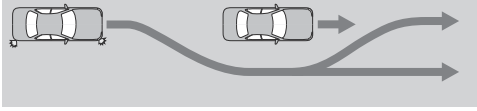


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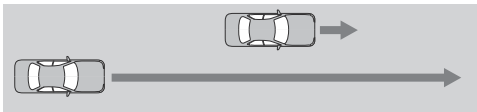
### 34. Overtake

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



### 35. Pass

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



### 36. Traffic pollution

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

### 37. Pedestrian

A person who traverses the road on foot.

Pedestrians (including types of vehicles treated as pedestrians)

Persons walking on the road

Persons traversing the road in wheelchairs

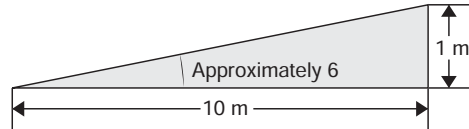
Persons traversing the road using wheeled walkers, etc.

Persons pushing motorcycles, mopeds, or two- or three-wheeled bicycles on foot  
(not including persons pushing motorcycles or mopeds with the engine running, with sidecars, and towing by other vehicles.)

- The term “wheeled walkers,” etc., applies to walkers (pushed by hand and used by persons who are physically impaired, such as the elderly, to assist their walking), kiddie cars, baby buggies and shopping carts (pushed by hand and used for transporting groceries, etc.). Some wheeled walkers are equipped with low-power electric motors.

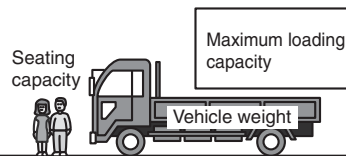
### 38. Steep slope

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



### 39. Gross Vehicle Weight

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



### 40. Total displacement

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

### 41. Rated motor output

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

#### ● Interpretation of Numerical Expressions as Used in this Book

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

① Regulatory Signs

**7. Closed to Large Passenger Vehicles, etc.**



The road is closed to large passenger vehicles and specified medium passenger vehicles.

(306)

**8. Closed to Two-Wheeled Vehicles and Mopeds**



The road is closed to two-wheeled vehicles and mopeds.

(307)

**9. Closed to Light Vehicles Except Bicycles**



Bicycles may use the road but it is closed to other light vehicles such as carts and trailers.

(308)

**10. Closed to Bicycles**



The road is closed to bicycles.

(309)

**11. Closed to Vehicles Shown**



The road is closed to the types of vehicles shown on the sign. (In this case it is closed to automobiles and mopeds.)

(310)

**12. No Riding Double on a Large-size Motorcycle or Regular Motorcycle**



Riding double on a large-size motorcycle or regular motorcycle is prohibited. (This does not apply to motorcycles with a sidecar.)

(310-2)

**13. Closed to Vehicles without Snow Chains**



The road is closed to vehicles without snow chains.

(310-3)

**14. Proceed Only in Designated Directions**

Vehicles must not proceed in any direction other than those indicated by the arrows.



Right Turn Prohibited



Proceeding Straight Ahead and Right Turn Prohibited



Left Turn and Right Turn Prohibited



Proceeding Straight Ahead Prohibited



Left Turn into Diagonal Street Prohibited



Proceeding on Right Side of Sign Prohibited

(311-A~F)

**15. No Vehicle Crossing**



Vehicles must not cross the road. (It is, however, permissible to cross the road when executing a left turn in order to enter or leave a facility or location that is off the road.)

(312)

**16. No U-Turn**



Vehicles must not execute U-turns.

(313)

**17. No Passing on the Right-Hand Part of the Road for Overtaking**



Vehicles must not enter the right-hand part of the road for the purpose of overtaking the vehicle in front of them.

(314)

**18. No Overtaking**



Vehicles must not overtake the vehicle in front of them.

追越し禁止

(314-2)

**19. No Parking or Stopping**



Vehicles must not park or stop. (The numbers indicate the time period during which parking or stopping is prohibited. In this case, parking or stopping is not allowed between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.)

(315)

## 5 Your Driver's License and Other Documents

### (1) Carrying Your Driver's License with You

You must carry the appropriate type of driver's license on your person when driving an automobile or moped.

### (2) Keeping a Vehicle Inspection Certificate in Your Vehicle

You must keep a valid vehicle inspection certificate in your automobile, except for compact cars<sup>1</sup> that are not subject to vehicle inspection and light special equipment.

### (3) Keeping a Liability Insurance Form in Your Vehicle

You must keep a valid compulsory automobile liability insurance form or mutual relief system insurance<sup>2</sup> certificate in your moped or automobile, except for light special equipment used for agriculture.

Vehicle Inspection Certificate  
Liability Insurance Form  
Driver's License



RT Law 95 I,  
RTV Law 66 I,  
MVDI Law 8



#### Quick Hint

##### Conditions for driving

You must wear eye-glasses if it is mentioned on your driver's license.

\* 1  
Compact cars ... that are not subject to vehicle inspection.

This refers to vehicles exempted from the vehicle inspection requirement, such as motorcycles with a total engine displacement of 250 cc or less.

\* 2  
mutual relief system insurance...

This refers to mutual aid programs run by agricultural cooperatives or consumer cooperatives that have the same purpose as automobile liability insurance.

Safety Standard  
43-2, etc.

\* 3  
Automobile...

Two-wheeled vehicles, heavy special equipment, light special equipment, and automobiles being towed by other vehicles are exempt from this requirement.

\* 4  
Mobile phone...

So-called hands-free phones, which do not require you to hold a handset in order to conduct calls, are exempt from this prohibition.

RT Law 71 (5-5)



#### Quick Hint

##### Dangers of Using a Mobile Phone While Driving

- ① Taking your eyes off the road to look for the handset, press buttons, etc.
- ② Possibility of loss of control of the automobile because you need to change your posture to pick up the handset, etc.
- ③ Danger that your attention will be focused on the phone call and not on driving.

## 6 Emergency Equipment

You must keep emergency signaling devices such as flares or red flashlights in your automobile<sup>3</sup>.

If you are planning to drive on an expressway (national expressway or motorway), be sure your vehicle is equipped with an emergency warning reflector device (emergency warning reflector board or emergency warning reflector light) in case you are forced to stop on the roadway on the occurrence of an accident, or similar.



Flare



Emergency  
Warning  
Reflector Light



Red  
Flashlights



Emergency  
Warning  
Reflector  
Board

## 7 Restrictions on Use of Mobile Phones While Driving

Using a mobile phone (smartphone etc.) or car phone while driving, or looking at the screen of a car navigation system or car TV, can prevent you from paying adequate attention to the traffic conditions around you and is extremely dangerous. You must not attempt to use a mobile phone<sup>4</sup> or similar, or study the screen of a car navigation system, etc., while driving. You should also be sure to power off your mobile phone before starting your journey to ensure that it does not ring while you are driving.

### Review

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

1. Seatbelts have a variety of beneficial effects, such as reducing injury should an accident occur and helping to reduce fatigue while driving.
2. When riding a motorcycle, you should wear clothing that exposes as much of your skin as possible. ▶▶▶ The correct answers are listed on the last page of the book.

### 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.

<b>First-class license (category 1)</b>	Required to operate automobiles and mopeds. (Excludes those vehicles that require a second-class license.)
<b>Second-class license (category 2)</b>	Required to operate a bus, taxi or other vehicle that transports fee-paying passengers, or a designated driving service's regular motor vehicle. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Learner's permit</b>	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.

#### (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	Large vehicle	Medium vehicle	Quasi-medium vehicles	Regular motor vehicle	Special heavy equipment	Large-size motorcycle	Regular motorcycle	Special light equipment	Moped
Type of first-class license (minimum age)									
<b>Large (21)</b>	●	●	●	●				●	●
<b>Medium (20)</b>		●	●	●				●	●
<b>Quasi-medium (18)</b>			●	●				●	●
<b>Regular (18)</b>				● <sup>※1</sup>				●	●
<b>Special heavy equipment (18)</b>					●			●	●
<b>Large-size motorcycle (18)</b>						● <sup>※1</sup>	● <sup>※1</sup>	●	●
<b>Regular motorcycle (16)</b>							● <sup>※1</sup> ● <sup>※2</sup>	●	●
<b>Special light equipment (16)</b>								●	
<b>Moped (16)</b>									●
<b>Towing license (18)</b>	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. <sup>※3</sup>								

※1

Refers to a regular passenger car operated by 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.

※1

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

※2

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.

※3














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.

# 13

The Driver's License System and  
Traffic Violation Notification System

## Point

### Types of Automobiles, etc.

<b>Large vehicle</b>	<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"> <li>• Gross vehicle weight: 11,000 kg or over</li> <li>• Maximum load capacity: 6,500 kg or over</li> <li>• Seating capacity: 30 passengers or more</li> </ul>	 <p>Large-size truck</p>	 <p>Large passenger vehicle (bus)</p>
<b>Medium Vehicle</b>	<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"> <li>• Gross vehicle weight: from 7,500kg or over to below 11,000kg</li> <li>• Maximum payload capacity: from 4,500kg or over to below 6,500kg</li> <li>• Seating capacity: 11 to 29 passengers</li> </ul> <p>Note: Specified medium vehicles : Refer to page 40.</p>	 <p>Medium truck</p>	 <p>Medium passenger vehicle</p>
<b>Quasi-medium vehicles</b>	<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"> <li>• Gross vehicle weight: from 3,500kg or over to below 7,500kg</li> <li>• Maximum payload capacity: from 2,000kg or over to below 4,500kg</li> </ul> <p>Note: Seating capacity is 10 passengers or less.</p>	 <p>Quasi-medium truck</p>	
<b>Regular motor vehicle</b>	<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"> <li>• Gross vehicle weight: Less than 3,500 kg</li> <li>• Maximum load capacity: Less than 2,000 kg</li> <li>• Seating capacity: 10 passengers or less</li> </ul> <p>Note: Minicar: Refer to page 5.</p>		 <p>Regular passenger vehicle over 50 cc up to 660 cc</p>
<b>Special heavy equipment</b>	<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>		
<b>Large-size motorcycle</b>	<p>A two-wheeled vehicle with an engine displacement of more than 400 cc or rated motor output of more than 20.0 kW (including a motorcycle with sidecar)</p>		
<b>Regular motorcycle</b>	<p>A two-wheeled vehicle with an engine displacement over 50 cc up to 400 cc or rated motor output of over 0.60 kW up to 20.0 kW (including a motorcycle with sidecar)</p>		
<b>Special light equipment</b>	<p>Special equipment that meets all of the following conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum speed of 15 km/h or less</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>		
<b>Moped</b>	<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>		 <p>Three-wheeled moped</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 license is attempting to obtain a second-class large vehicle license or second-class medium licence.
- ② When a person with a first-class medium vehicle license is attempting to obtain a second-class large vehicle license.
- ③ When a person with a special heavy equipment license is attempting to obtain a second-class large vehicle license, second-class medium vehicle license, or second-class regular license.



**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 driven<sup>1</sup>:

- 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.

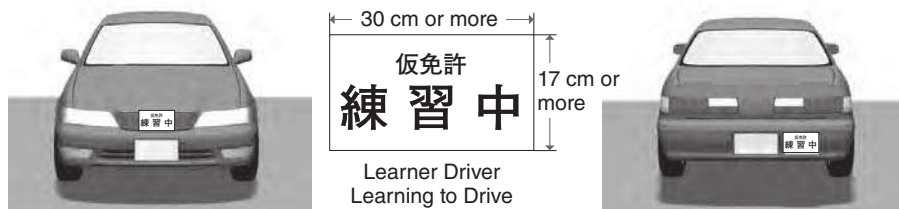
### (3) Learning to Drive on a Learner's Permit

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, damaged or going to be renewed for personal informations change, it is possible to apply to one's local public safety commission for the license to be reissued.

## 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.					
Manslaughter while driving and etc.	62										
Injuring someone while driving and etc.	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.	62										
Reckless driving which caused injuries etc.	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)	25 km or more to less than 30 km	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 phone or similar (Causing a traffic hazard)	6	16					
Use of mobile phone or similar (Holding a phone)	3	15	25	18	15	12	
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 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		
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: Use of mobile phone or similar (causing a traffic hazard) is committed penal provisions.

Note: Points will be assessed for "Failure to fasten seatbelts" in rear seats only when the violation is committed on the highway.

13

The Driver's License System and Traffic Violation Notification System



## 2 Driving on Snow Covered Roads

When it is snowing, the visibility gets poor and the road becomes very slippery with snow accumulating. Therefore, you need to reduce speed and keep a sufficient distance between cars. When driving on a frozen road, further attention is required.



### (1) Deteriorated visibility

When it's snowing, the visibility is poor and you'll find it hard to see ahead.

When the wind is strong, even if the weather is clear, the accumulated powder snow may be blown up, which blocks your view suddenly. You need to be prepared for this.

At the place where snow is piled up highly by the snow removing, be sure to pay attention because pedestrians appear from the shade.

### (2) Use snow chains or studless tires

On a snow covered road or frozen road, snow chains or studless tires should be placed. If there is a traffic sign<sup>1</sup> indicating that the road is closed to vehicles without snow chains, you must not drive your vehicle without snow chains.

There are traditional metallic chains and nonmetallic chains, such as rubber or plastic. Snow chains are placed on **drive wheels**<sup>2</sup>. In order to place or remove chains, you need to pull in the car on the left side of the road and appropriate area.

Studless tires have been developed for snow and ice instead of spike tires and they are worn on **all the wheels**.

\*1  
Sign...



\*2  
Drive wheels...

This refers to the wheels that receive the power from the engine. There are front-wheel-drive vehicles, rear-wheel-drive vehicles and four-wheel-drive vehicles.

## Point

### ① Skidding at startup

When a car cannot start due to tires' skidding, put sand bags, mats or branches in front of drive wheels.

### ② Measures when a car is parked (four-wheeled vehicles)

If you park a car outside when the temperature is extremely low, leave the hand brake released, put the car into back or low gear (put into **P** in the case of an automatic car) and put scotch blocks, if necessary, in case a part of the brake may get frozen.

When it snows, pull up the windshield wiper or insert grease into the key hole to prevent getting frozen.

### ③ In the event of a blizzard

When the Japan Meteorological Agency has announced a warning or advisory about a possible disaster caused by heavy snowfall, blizzard or the like, it is very dangerous to drive a car. If you must drive a car, observe the following precautions.

- Listen to the weather report on the radio or call the Japan Road Traffic Information Center to find out about the road and traffic conditions.
- Carry a snow shovel, snow wear, blanket and the like in the car to prepare for an unexpected situation.

If heavy snowfall disallows car operation and you must stay in the car to avoid danger, observe the following precautions in order to prevent poisoning by the exhaust gas (carbon monoxide).

- Ventilate the cabin well and remove snow away from the exhaust outlet.
- If the exhaust outlet becomes buried in snow, turn off the engine.

## (5) Points to consider for two-wheeled vehicles

- A A snowy road or a frozen road is extremely slippery and dangerous. You should refrain from driving a two-wheeled vehicle.
- B If driving a two-wheeled vehicle is absolutely necessary, be extra cautious about operating the steering wheel or the brake. It may cause skidding.
- C Drive on the tracks of previous cars when possible.



## Review

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

1. When driving through fog, it is difficult to see ahead, so it is best to stay as close as possible to the vehicle in front.
2. If your vehicle's tires start to spin in mud and the like, increase the engine's revolutions and try to drive out in one go.
3. When driving on snow covered roads, areas driven on by the vehicle in front can be very slippery, so should be avoided.

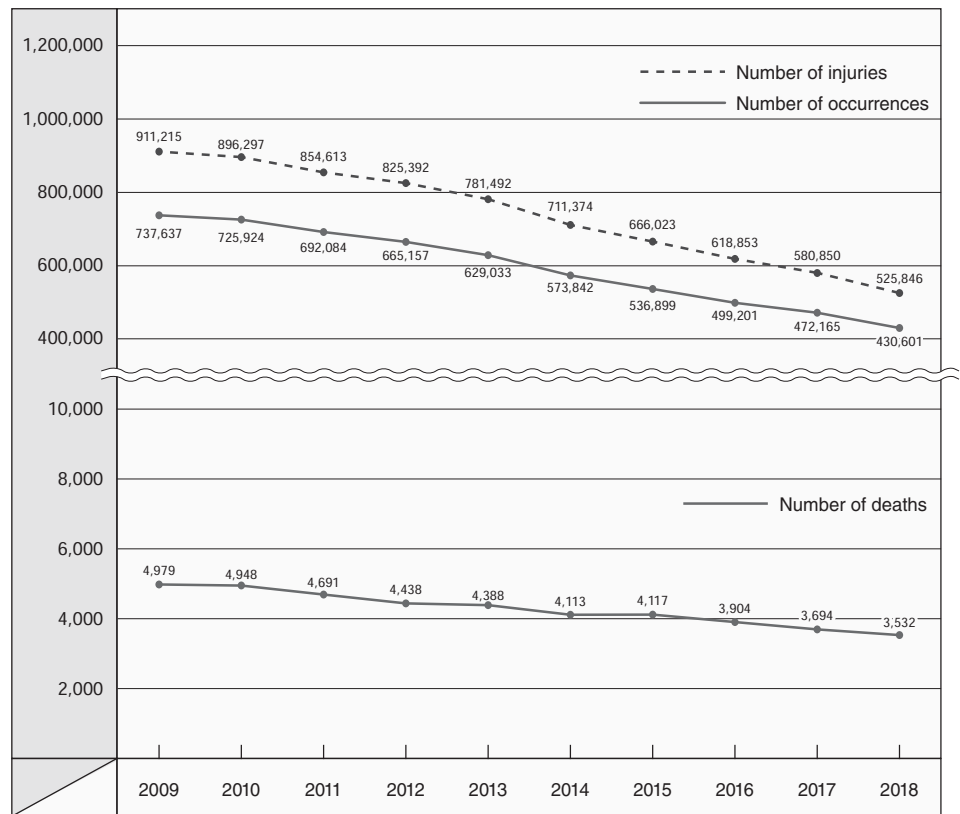
▶▶▶ The correct answers are listed on the last page of the book.

# 1 Characteristic Reality of Accidents

A car is a convenient and comfortable vehicle. On the other hand, it can be a dreadful weapon that causes tragic traffic accidents if it is not used properly. Traffic accidents are huge social problem. Every year so many people are killed in traffic accidents.

The number of traffic fatalities in 2018 fell by 162 from the previous year to 3,532. This number was less than one-third of the traffic fatalities in 1970, which peaked at 16,765.

Additionally, the number of both traffic accidents (430,601) and injuries (525,846) in 2018 has decreased since 2004, when they reached their highest numbers. They have decreased for the fourteenth straight years since 2005.

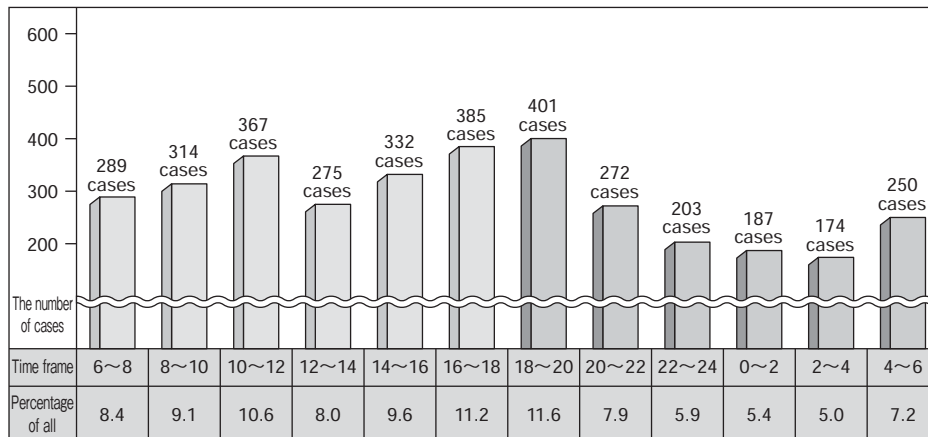


# 1 Characteristics of Traffic Accidents

## (1) Time frame of accident occurrences

Fatal accidents happen during what we call “night time”, from evening to the middle of the night. The reason why fatal accidents happen so often at night is that it is harder than daytime to obtain the necessary driving information and, therefore, recognizing and judging takes more time. As traffic gets light, it encourages drivers to increase speed. Becoming distracted and disconnected is also another reason.

Happening situation of fatal accidents by hourly (cases) (2018)



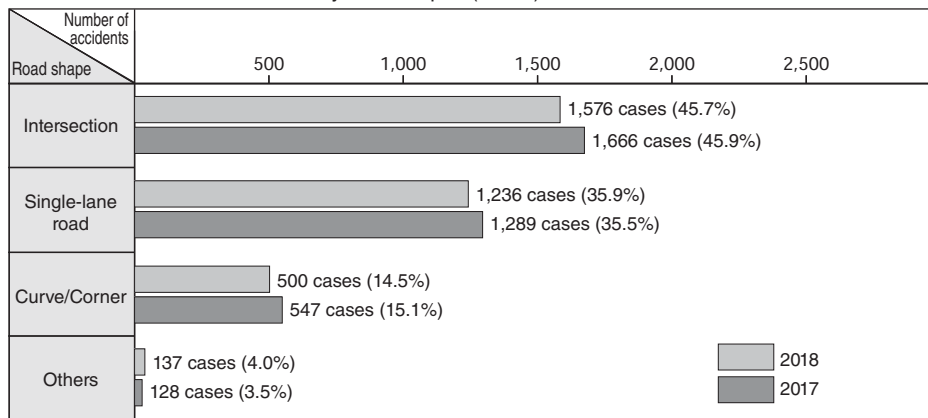
## (2) Sites of accidents

Fatal accidents happen most at and around intersections. Intersections are the place where traffic goes not only north and south but also east and west. Moreover, vehicles and pedestrians mix and get involved with other traffic at intersections.

The site where fatal accidents happen the second most is on single-lane roads. On single-lane roads, they tend to gain speed and drive recklessly.

Then curves and corners come next. It is attributed to driving attitudes which ignore safety, such as speeding and steering errors.

Circumstances of fatal accidents by road shapes (cases)

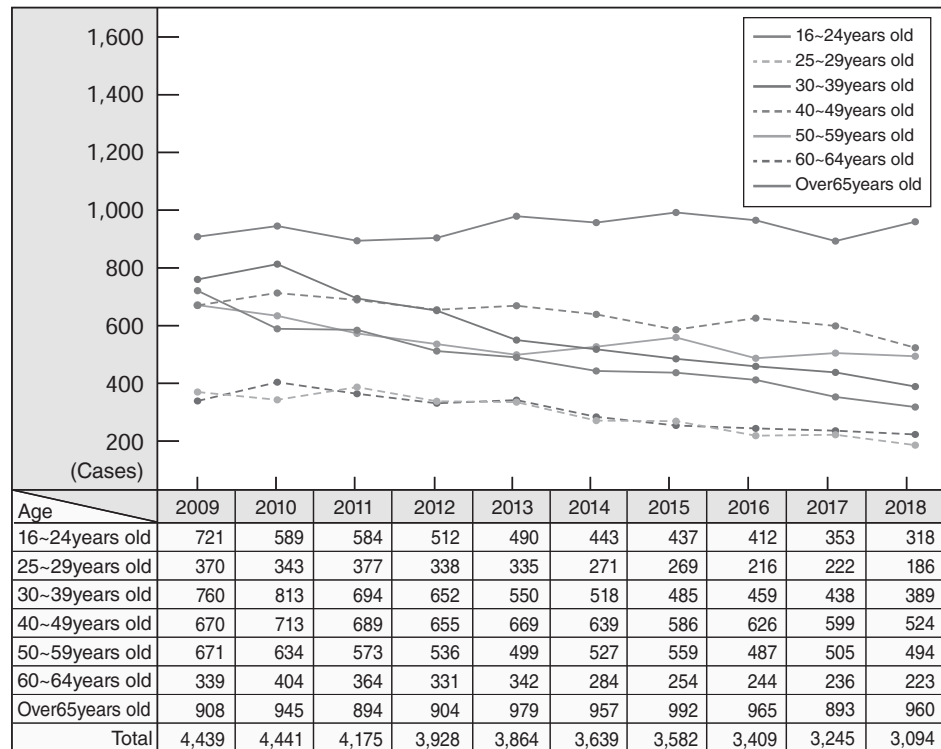


### (3) Age of drivers

In figures for fatal accidents by driver age, elderly drivers (65 years and over) have the highest number of fatal accidents, followed by those in their forties and fifties. Compared with the previous year, forties group had the largest decline in fatal accidents.

Fatal accidents involving young drivers (16-24 years) started to rise around 1980, but, after peaking in 1990 at 3,828 accidents, they have continued to decline almost consistently, falling to less than a third in ten years. By 2005, the number of fatal accidents among young drivers had fallen below that of the 30-39 years age group. Fatal accidents involving elderly drivers, on the other hand, remain at a high level, due in part to a 80% increase in the number of licence holders in this age group in ten years. The statistic for this age group surpassed the 30-39 years age group in 2008 and it has stayed at the top every year since then. The level of drivers aged 75 years or older is even higher.

The transition of the fatal accidents of the first concerned person (drivers of four-wheeled vehicles and two-wheeled motorized vehicles) by age group



In regard to younger drivers' fatal accidents, accidents by head-on collisions and front-end collisions stand out. It's related to the tendency to drive recklessly and aimlessly.

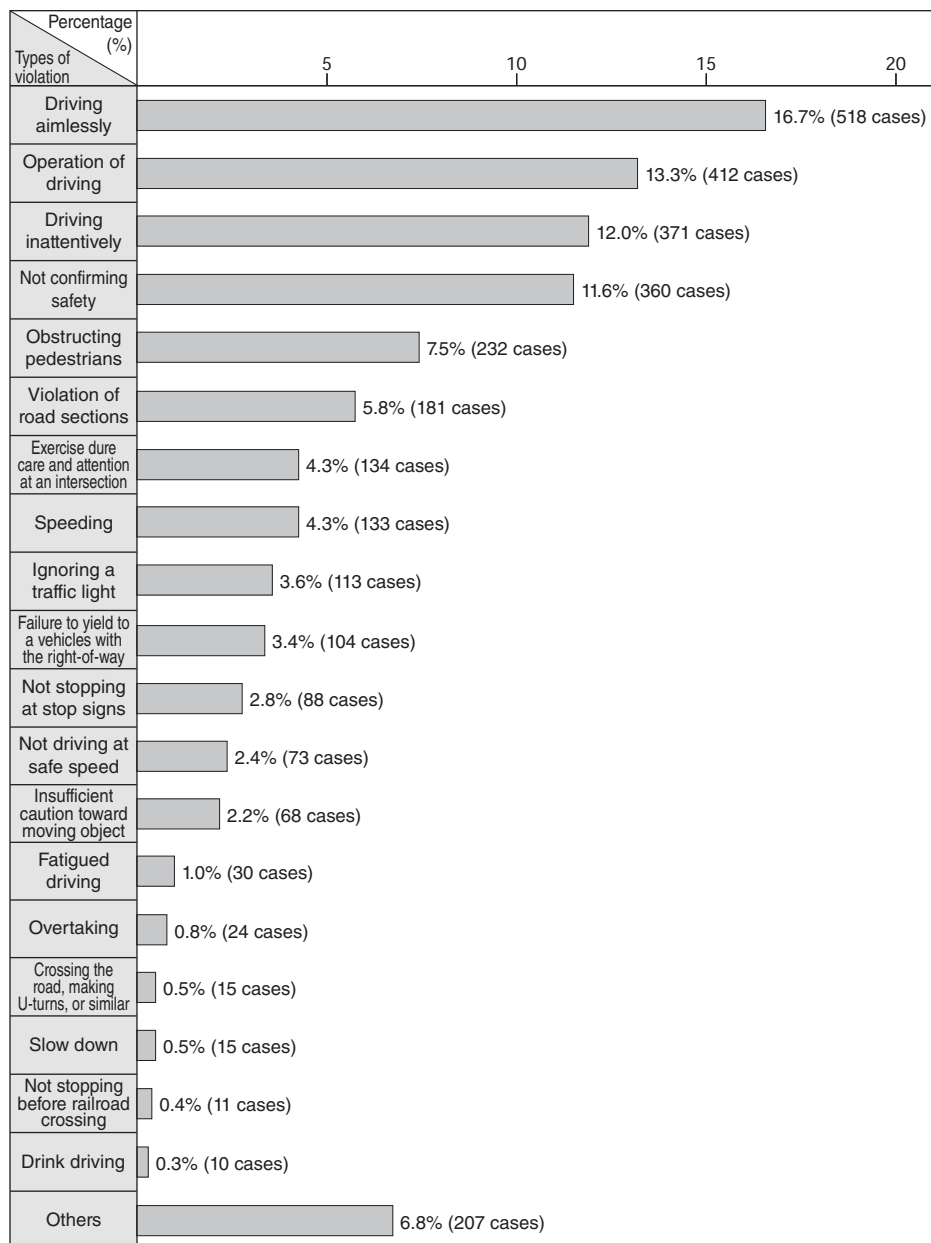
#### (4) Driving experience

By the length of driving experience, the shorter the length of driving experience, the higher the percentage of causing accidents. It is the same tendency as the year before. This is due to the lack of ability to predict possible dangers and the lack of preparation for safe driving.

#### (5) Violation of law

Out of all the law violations which fatal accidents were attributed to, driving aimlessly comes first, followed by operation of driving and inattentive driving. Younger drivers, however, often driving aimlessly and improperly, while elderly drivers are inclined to drive improperly. All of these hazards can be avoided, however, by remaining alert, using a bit of extra caution, and anticipating risky situations before they occur.

Situation of fatal accidents by factor (the first concerned person) (2018)

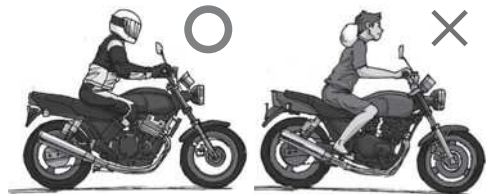


## 2 Exposure and Injury in Two-wheeled Vehicles

As the whole body is always exposed to the outside while on two-wheeled vehicles, an accident is highly likely to be serious.

### (1) Clothes

- A Wear clothes that reduces the exposure of your skin as far as possible and protective equipment.
- B Wear clothes that are clearly visible to other drivers.
- C Do not drive with footwear which obstructs driving, such as getas and sandals.
- D Put on reflective clothes or a driving helmet with a reflector.
- E A person riding double on a two-wheeled vehicle does the same as above.



### (2) Putting on a helmet

- A Do not drive a two-wheeled vehicle or a motorized bicycle without a driving helmet.  
Also, do not ride double without a driving helmet.  
The majority of people killed in accidents while riding on a two-wheeled vehicle had fatal head injuries.
- B Use a helmet which has the **PS(C) mark** or the **JIS mark**<sup>1</sup> on it and wear it properly with the chin-trap tightly buckled.

**A construction hardhat is not for driving.**

\* 1  
PSC Mark



JIS Mark

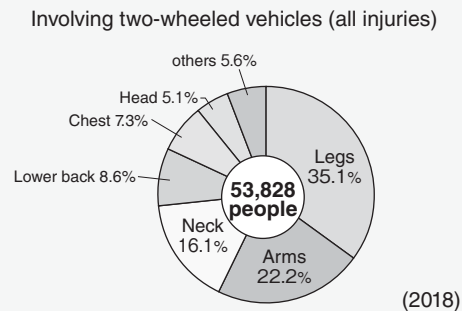


### Point

#### Pay special attention regarding leg injuries

The majority of injuries in accidents occur in the leg areas. If you topple over, be careful not to get trapped in the vehicle.

Injuries by body part in traffic accidents.



## Point

### 3 responsibilities

#### ① Civil responsibility

The following are recent examples huge damages that were awarded in trials involving traffic accidents.

Examples of Large Compensation Judgments (Accidents Causing Injury or Death)

Ordered compensation	Court	Verdict date	Accident date	Injured party	Nature of damage
528.53 million	Yokohama district	2011.11. 1	2009.12.27	Male, 41years, medical practitioner	Dead
453.81 million	Sapporo district	2016. 3.30	2009. 1. 7	Male, 30 years, civil servant	Residual disability
452.51 million	Yokohama district	2017. 7.18	2012.11. 1	Male, 50 years, consultant	〃
439.61 million	Kagoshima district	2016.12. 6	2010.11. 9	Female, 58 years, vocational school teacher	〃
397.25 million	Yokohama district	2011.12.27	2003. 9.14	Male, 21 years, college student	〃
395.10 million	Nagoya district	2011. 2.18	2007. 4.13	Male, 20 years, college student	〃
390.95 million	Kobe district	2017. 3.30	2009.12. 3	Male, 32 years, teaching assistant	〃
382.81 million	Nagoya district	2005. 5.17	1998. 5.18	Male, 29 years, company employee	〃
378.86 million	Osaka district	2007. 4.10	2002.12.11	Male, 23 years, company employee	〃
373.70 million	Tokyo district	2014. 8.27	2010. 7.20	Male, 7 years, elementary school student	〃

Examples of Large Compensation Judgments (Accidents Causing damage to something)

Ordered compensation	Court	Verdict date	Accident date	Damaged Property
261.35 million	Kobe district	Jul. 19, 1994	May. 29, 1985	Cargo (Kimonos, clothing, furs)
135.80 million	Tokyo district	Jul. 17, 1996	Feb. 23, 1991	Store (pachinko parlor)
120.36 million	Fukuoka district	Jul. 18, 1980	Mar. 1, 1975	Train, tracks, houses
117.98 million	Osaka district	Dec. 7, 2011	Apr. 19, 2007	Trailer
113.47 million	Chiba district	Oct. 26, 1998	Sep. 14, 1992	Train
61.24 million	Okayama district	Jun. 27, 2000	Sep. 26, 1996	Cargo
41.41 million	Osaka district	May. 14, 2010	Sep. 25, 1999	Cargo
33.91 million	Nagoya district	Jan. 16, 2004	Mar. 9, 2001	Large freight vehicle and cargo
31.56 million	Tokyo district	Dec. 25, 2001	Nov. 5, 1999	4-storey building
30.52 million	Tokyo district	Aug. 28, 2001	May. 16, 1999	Store (surf shop)

(Source: The General Insurance Association of Japan statistics)

#### ② Criminal responsibility

If a person fails to pay necessary attention when driving a car and causes someone's death or injury, he or she may be convicted of "negligence in automobile driving resulting in death or injury" under the Act Concerning Punishment of Automobile Driving Resulting in Death or Injury, and sentenced to up to 7 years in prison.

However, if a victim is killed or injured due to the driver's malicious or dangerous driving—such as driving while incapable of normal operation due to the influence of alcohol or drugs, or driving at a dangerous speed on a road closed to traffic (pedestrian-only road, wrong direction on an expressway)—the sentence for "dangerous driving resulting in death or injury" is applied. The driver may be sentenced to 1 to 20 years in prison if the victim is killed, and up to 15 years in prison if the victim is injured. Further, if a victim is killed or injured due to the driver becoming incapable of normal operation while driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or an illness-related consciousness disorder, the driver may be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison if the victim is killed, and up to 12 years in prison if the victim is injured.

If the driver was driving without a license, an additional penalty will be applied for unlicensed driving.

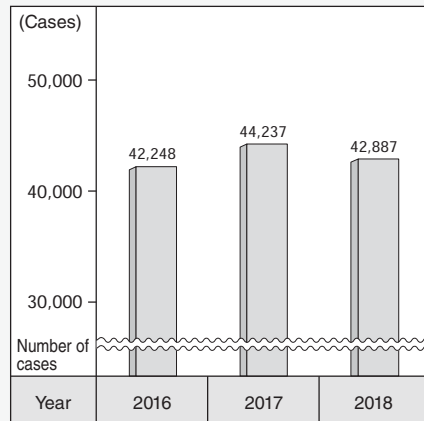


### ③ Administrative action

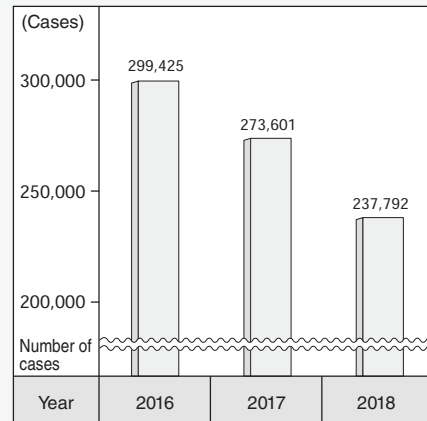
The number of drivers' license revocations was 42,887 and the number of suspensions was 237,792 in 2018. The period a person cannot receive a license due to revocation is from 1 year to 10 years. If the person whose drivers' license has been revoked tries to obtain a license again, he or she must go through special training.

In the case of driver's license suspension, time periods vary from 30 days to 180 days.

Number of drivers' license revocations



Number of drivers' license suspensions



※ It includes revocation of beginner drivers' licenses, revocation due to illness or tendency to seriously violate rules. It excludes applied revocation.

# 1 Registering an Automobile (Notification) and Inspection

## 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
1,10-19,100-199,10A-19Z,1A0-1Z9,1AA-1ZZ	Truck (more than 2000 cc)
2,20-29,200-299,20A-29Z,2A0-2Z9,2AA-2ZZ	Passenger vehicles with a seating capacity of 11 passengers or more
3,30-39,300-399,30A-39Z,3A0-3Z9,3AA-3ZZ	Passenger vehicles with a seating capacity of 10 passengers or less (more than 2000 cc)
4,40-49,400-499,40A-49Z,4A0-4Z9,4AA-4ZZ	Truck (over 660cc to 2000cc or less)
6,60-69,600-699,60A-69Z,6A0-6Z9,6AA-6ZZ	Truck (more than 50 cc, 660 cc or less)
40-49,400-499,600-699,40A-49Z,60A-69Z,4A0-4Z9,6A0-6Z9,4AA-4ZZ,6AA-6ZZ	Truck (more than 50 cc, 660 cc or less)
5,50-59,500-599,50A-59Z,5A0-5Z9,5AA-5ZZ	Passenger vehicle (over 660cc to 2000cc or less)
7,70-79,700-799,70A-79Z,7A0-7Z9,7AA-7ZZ	Passenger vehicle (over 660cc to 2000cc or less)
50-59,500-599,700-799,50A-59Z,70A-79Z,5A0-5Z9,7A0-7Z9,5AA-5ZZ,7AA-7ZZ	Passenger vehicle (more than 50 cc, 660 cc or less)
8,80-89,800-899,80A-89Z,8A0-8Z9,8AA-8ZZ	Vehicle for special use (sprinkler truck, promotional vehicle, practice vehicle at driving school, hearse, etc.)
9,90-99,900-999,90A-99Z,9A0-9Z9,9AA-9ZZ	Special heavy equipment
0,00-09,000-099,00A-09Z,0A0-0Z9,0AA-0ZZ	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 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



"3" indicates the year in which the inspection certificate expires, and "11" indicates the month in the inspection sticker.

## 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 37-3

\*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.