

Follow the five rules for safety when riding a bicycle:



1. As a rule, bicycles should be ridden on the road. Only in special circumstances should they be ridden on the sidewalk.

Under the Road Traffic Law, bicycles have the same status as light vehicles. Therefore, on roads where the space for vehicles is separate from the space for pedestrians, cyclists should use the space for vehicles.



It is permissible to ride on the sidewalk in the following cases:

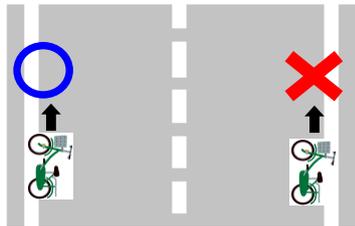
- When there is a '自転車歩道通行可' ('bicycles allowed to ride on the sidewalk') sign.
- When the cyclist is under 13 years of age or of 70 years of age or over, or when the cyclist has a disability.
- When it would be dangerous to ride in the space for vehicles.
(For example, when there are roadworks, and vehicles are blocking the road, making it difficult to pass.)



'普通自転車歩道通行可'
(The 'bicycles allowed to ride on the sidewalk' sign)

2. Bicycles should be ridden along the left-hand side of the road.

Bicycles must not be ridden along the right-hand side of the space for vehicles.



3. When riding on the sidewalk, give priority to pedestrians, and ride slowly along the side of the sidewalk closest to the road.

On a sidewalk, bicycles must be ridden slowly enough that the cyclist can stop immediately, and if riding a bicycle would cause a nuisance to pedestrians, the cyclist must stop completely.

4. Follow the following rules for safety:

- Do not ride a bicycle if you have been drinking alcohol.



- Do not ride with two people on the same bicycle.



- Do not ride next to (in parallel with) another cyclist.



- Use lights at night-time.



- Follow traffic signals.
- At junctions, stop and check whether it is safe to continue.

5. Children should wear cycling helmets

Parents or guardians of children should ensure that their children wear appropriate cycling helmets.



Rules and manners when riding a bicycle: Do you know them? Do you follow them?



Do not use umbrellas, mobile phones or earphones, etc., while cycling.

- Using umbrellas while cycling is banned.



- Using mobile phones while cycling is banned.



- Playing music at a high volume through headphones, etc., while cycling is banned.



If you repeatedly break the laws related to cycling safety, you will have to attend a lecture to teach you how to ride your bicycle safely.
(From June 2015)

Dangerous actions that would lead to you being forced to attend the lecture include the following:

- Ignoring traffic signals



- Not stopping at places where you need to stop to check safety



- Riding a bicycle while drunk



- Riding a bicycle with unsafe brakes, etc.



Purchase insurance for bodily injury liability!

If you hit someone in an accident while cycling, and that person is injured or dies, you will have to pay compensation for the damages suffered by that person.

The amount of this compensation can sometimes be very high, so to protect yourself in case you cause an accident, it is recommended that you purchase insurance.

Also, if you have your bicycle checked and repaired at a 'bicycle safety repair shop', you can obtain a 'TS mark' sticker for your bicycle. This sticker includes injury and liability insurance, valid for one year from the day of the safety check.



Bicycles are very convenient, but if you do not ride them properly, you may injure others, by hitting them, falling off your bicycle, etc. Please follow traffic rules and manners, and ensure that you ride your bicycle safely.