

Traffic Rules for Pedestrians and Bicycle Riders in Japan

■ Basic Traffic Rules



Many traffic accidents occur in Aichi Prefecture, and many of them involve foreign residents. To avoid accidents, please be sure to observe the following basic rules.

Pedestrians must keep to the right, and cars and bicycle riders to the left.

Cars must yield to pedestrians.

Obey the traffic lights and road signs.

Obey police officers' instructions.

■ Basic Rules for Pedestrians



Please be sure to walk on sidewalks where possible. Where there is no sidewalk, walk on the right side of the street.

When you cross a street, obey the pedestrian traffic light signals at intersections with traffic lights, and walk on the marked pedestrian crossing at intersections without traffic lights. Check both left and right for oncoming cars, and make sure the cars have stopped completely before you cross the street. When you go out at night, wear a reflector or bright-colored clothing.

■ Basic Rules for Bicycle Riders



Bicycles must travel in single file on the left side of the roadway. Bicycles can travel on sidewalks that display a sign indicating that they are open to bicycles. Because bicycles are regarded as *keisharyo* (non-motor vehicles) by the Road Traffic Act, violation of the Act can result in penalties. Do not ride double or ride with one hand on the handlebar while holding an umbrella or some other object in the other. At railroad crossings or stop signs, be sure to stop and check both left and right before crossing. At intersections with traffic lights, obey the traffic light signals. Please be careful to avoid traffic accidents while riding a bicycle.

■ Bicycle Theft Prevention Registration



After buying a bicycle, you should register it for Bicycle Theft Prevention Registration at the bicycle store. A registered bicycle is more likely to be retrieved after being stolen. You can register by filling in a form and paying a registration fee of 500 yen at the store. If your bicycle goes missing, report it to the police immediately. At that time you will need to provide the Theft Prevention Registration number on the registration form to the police, so please keep your copy of the form at hand. If the police find your bicycle, you will be contacted.

■ Bicycle Parking Areas

There are bicycle parking areas in many apartment buildings and other facilities. Sidewalks are not an appropriate place to park your bicycle. When you park your bicycle, make sure that bicycle parking is permitted in that area.

Bicycle parking is prohibited around Jimokuji Station on the Meitetsu Line in Ama city. Temporary (100 yen) and periodic parking areas are provided, as well as free parking areas in the city. Visit Ama City website for more information.



Ama City website:

<http://www.city.ama.aichi.jp/kotsu/koutuu/index.html>

(in English, Chinese, Portuguese, and Korean)

■ What is a Bicycle?



©Regular Bicycle

A regular bicycle is a widely-used type of bicycle, with two or three wheels and a standard body size and structure, and that does not tow other vehicles.

©Number of Riders

Only one person can ride on a bicycle as a rule, although an additional young child is allowed to ride under the following conditions.

Ordinary Bicycle

A bicycle ridden by a person 16 years old or older can carry one child who is five years old or younger on a child seat.

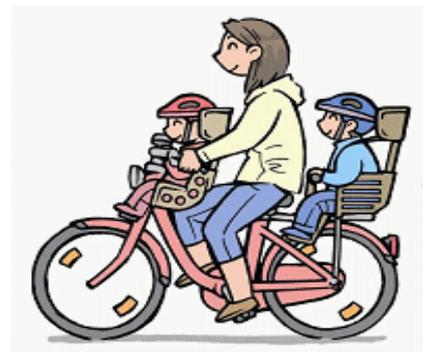
- * The rider can carry another child in a sling on his/her back.



A Bicycle with Two Child Seats

A rider who is 16 years old or older can carry two children on a bicycle with a special structure or equipment for two child seats.

- * When you carry two children on the bicycle, you cannot carry another in a sling.





Do not ride bicycles in prohibited condition!

Riding bicycles in the following conditions is prohibited due to the risk of accidents.

A bicycle that isn't equipped with standardized brakes.

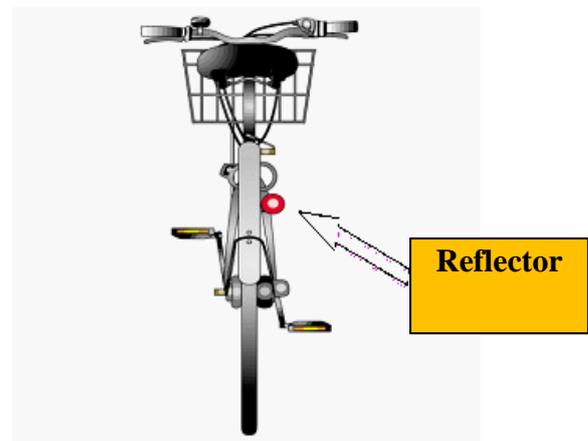
A bicycle that isn't equipped with a functioning front light.

A bicycle that isn't equipped with a rear reflector or rear light.



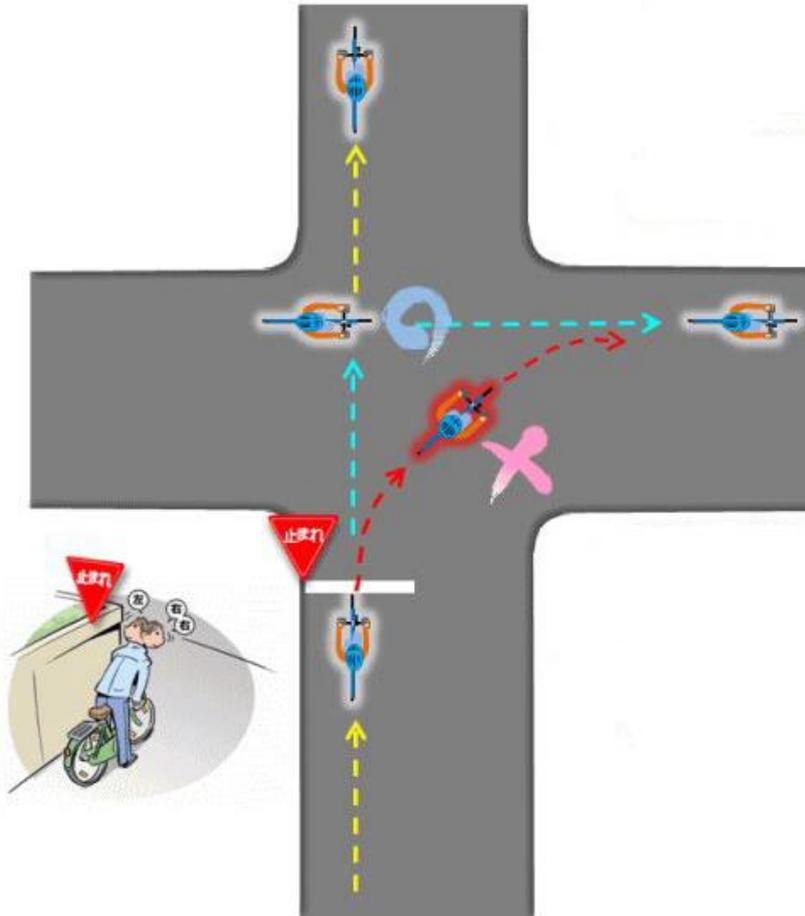
Please check the following safety requirements before riding your bicycle!

- Both front and back brakes are working, and can halt the vehicle within three meters when riding at 10 kilometers per hour.
- The front light is either white or light yellow and is bright enough to illuminate an obstacle 10 meters ahead of the vehicle.
- The reflector functions well enough that when the headlights of an approaching car 100 meters behind the bicycle illuminate the reflector, the reflected light is easily observable.



■ Riding Directions for Bicycles (going straight, stopping, turning right, etc.)

● An intersection with a stop sign

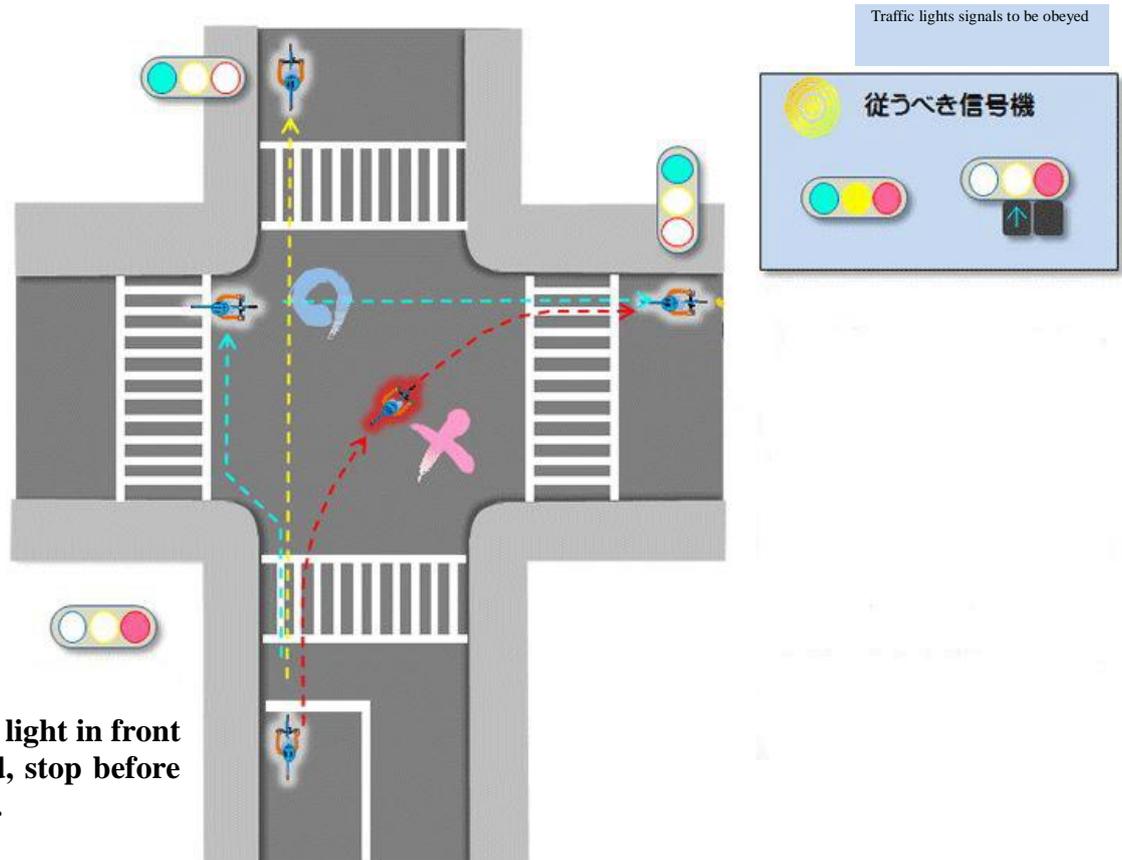


Bicycle riders must obey street signs just as drivers of other vehicles do. At an intersection with a stop sign, you must stop just before the stop line, and look left and right to confirm safety before continuing. (If there is no stop line, stop just before the intersection.) Even if there is no stop sign, stop to confirm safety before proceeding at an intersection with poor visibility.

[Turning right]

Bicycles should travel on the far left side of the street, and move slowly at the far left side of the intersection when turning right. * Diagonal crossing is prohibited when turning right at an intersection.

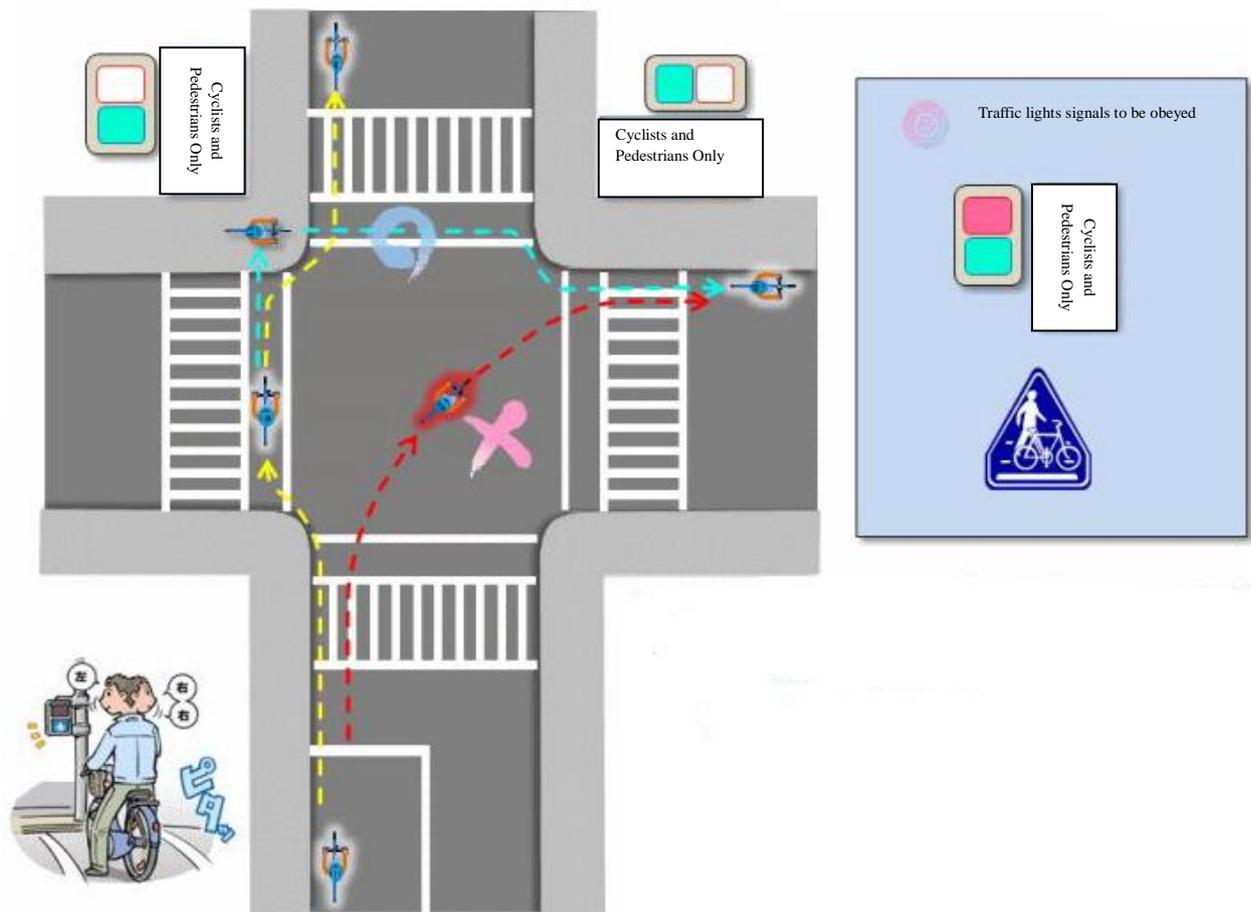
● An intersection with a traffic light without a pedestrian traffic light or a bicycle crossing



If the traffic light in front of you is red, stop before the stop line.

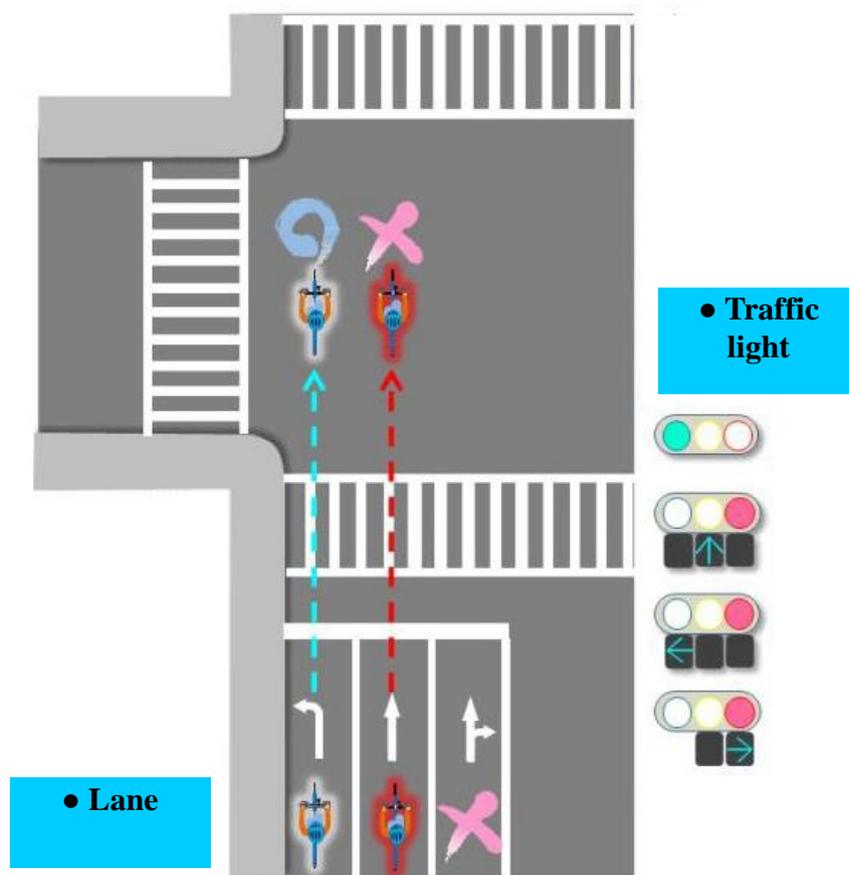
When crossing an intersection with a traffic signal, you must obey the signal facing you. Proceed on the left side of the street. If there is no risk of obstructing a pedestrian, you can cross the crosswalk while riding on the bicycle. If there are pedestrians on the crosswalk, get off and push the bicycle to avoid obstructing them.

- An intersection with a pedestrian traffic light indicating “for pedestrians and bicycles” and a crossing



At an intersection with a pedestrian traffic light indicating “for pedestrians and bicycles,” bicycle riders should use the bicycle crossing lane instead of crossing on the street. When the traffic light facing you is red, go onto the sidewalk in front of the stop line and wait there until the light turns green, and then get off the sidewalk and cross the street using the bicycle crossing lane.

- An intersection with a lane for left-turning vehicles and traffic light displays



When you go straight at an intersection with a lane for left-turning vehicles, go through that lane instead of the lane for vehicles traveling straight, as shown in the diagram. Watch for vehicles approaching behind you while proceeding.

You must stop just before the stop line when the traffic signal facing you is red. However, if there is a risk of collision with a left-turning vehicle approaching from behind, get off the bicycle and push it onto the sidewalk. Since bicycles are *keisharyo*, they must obey the traffic light signal for vehicles.

If the traffic light is specified for pedestrians and bicycles, obey the pedestrians' traffic signal and use the bicycle crossing lane. Bicycle riders should obey the green arrow signal when going straight or turning left.

★ Bicycles must obey traffic signals and signs as cars do

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|---|---|--|
|  <p>No entry</p> <p>Cars and bicycles cannot enter this area (except if there is a “excluding bicycles” sign).</p> |  <p>One-way traffic</p> <p>Cars and bicycles cannot travel in opposite direction (except if there is a “excluding bicycles” sign).</p> |  <p>Closed to motor vehicles</p> <p>All vehicles including bicycles are prohibited from entering this area.</p> |
|  <p>Closed to bicycles</p> <p>Bicycles cannot enter this area.</p> |  <p>Slow</p> <p>Move at a speed allowing easy stopping.</p> |  <p>Stop</p> <p>Be sure to stop and check the surroundings to confirm safety.</p> |
|  <p>Pedestrians only</p> <p>This street is for pedestrians only.</p> |  <p>Cyclists and pedestrians only</p> <p>This street is for bicycle riders and pedestrians only.</p> |  <p>Crossing for bicycles</p> <p>This crossing is for bicycles.</p> |