

Basic Rules for Riding a Bicycle



Where should bicycles be ridden?
On the road?
On the sidewalk?
Where am I allowed to ride?

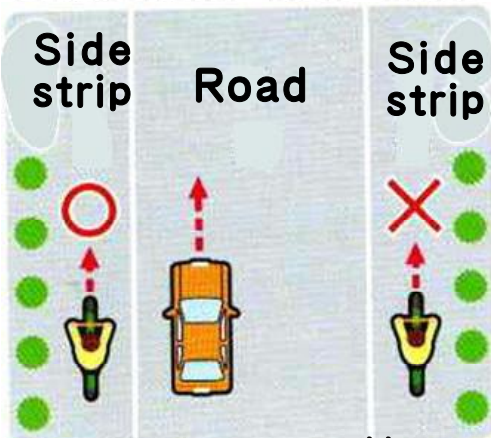
※In this context, “bicycle”
refers to a standard (ordinary) bicycle.



Shiori Aiba,
Akita Traffic-Safety Ambassador

Make sure you check exactly where you are allowed to ride your bicycle!

❖ As a general rule, bicycles should be ridden on the left side of the road.



•A bicycle is classified as a “non-motorized vehicle.”

•Like cars, bicycles must travel on the road.

•If there is a any strip on the left side of the road, you may travel on the side strip.

•However, if it significantly obstructs pedestrians' passage, you may not travel on the side strip.

•Moreover, when using the side strip, you must travel at a speed and in a manner that does not impede pedestrians.

- When overtaken by a car, stay as far left as possible.
- Obstructing the movement of cars could be a violation !

So, is riding on the sidewalk prohibited?
Are sidewalks only for pedestrians?



Bicycles may ride on sidewalks only under certain conditions !
Let's see the next page for more details !



Exceptions concerning sidewalk passage



On sidewalks marked with this sign, bicycles are permitted. However, they must keep to the side of the sidewalk that is closest to the road.

← Sign indicating that bicycles are permitted on sidewalks.



As a general rule

- Pedestrians have priority on sidewalks.
- You must travel at a speed that allows you to stop immediately if necessary (i.e., ride slowly).
- You must stop if you are likely to obstruct pedestrian traffic.



There are also situations where you may ride on the sidewalk even without a sign !



Please do not forget to wear a helmet!



① The cyclist is a child under 13, a person 70 years or older, or someone with a specified physical disability.



② The road is under construction, the lane is too narrow, or traffic is so heavy that riding on the road would be unsafe.



The placement of signs varies according to local road conditions.

For questions about the signage in your area, contact your local police station.



Akita Prefectural Police

~Traffic Dept. Traffic Planning Div~



Access the Bicycle Rule Book here→

