

To the bicycle riding international residents of Sendai,

~Here are some of the rules and manners of bicycle riding in Japan~

◆ Before riding a bicycle

Step 1 You are required to get bicycle riding insurance.

If you injure someone while riding a bicycle, you may have to pay a lot of money.



【A case where an accident occurred】

An elementary school student was riding at night when they hit a female pedestrian. The woman got a fractured skull which put her in an unconscious, critical condition. The parents of the elementary student were made to pay 95 million yen to the woman. (Kobe district court ruling in 2014.)



You can also purchase insurance at a bicycle shop. (TS Mark insurance)

The insurance lasts for a period of 1 year. Please renew before it expires.

Step 2 Bicycles require crime prevention registration.

Registration can be done at a bicycle shop.

When you give or receive a bicycle, you must change the bicycle registration.

When disposing of a bicycle, you must cancel your registration.



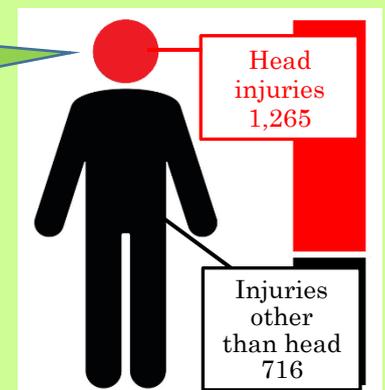
◆ When riding a bicycle

Step 3 Wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.



60% of bicycle deaths are a result of **head** injuries.

Protect yourself with a helmet in case you fall or crash.



Step 4 Obey traffic rules.

Not observing traffic rules when riding may result in punishment. (See back)

◆Traffic rules when riding a bicycle

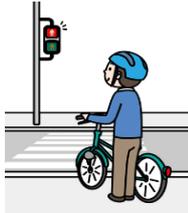
- ① Bicycles should be ridden **on the left side of the road**. (They can be ridden on sidewalks in some places.)



Useful Info : "Know them? Follow them? Bicycle Safety Rules and Manners"
(From Government Info Online)

At an intersection, proceed slowly. Stop once and look right and then left, checking for cars and pedestrians.

- ② Obey traffic lights.



- ③ Ride single file.

Do not ride side-by-side.



- ④ When it gets dark, turn on your bicycle light.

- ⑤ Do not use an umbrella while riding a bicycle.

- ⑥ Do not use your smart phone, or use earphones while riding a bicycle.

- ⑦ Do not ride a bicycle after consuming alcohol.

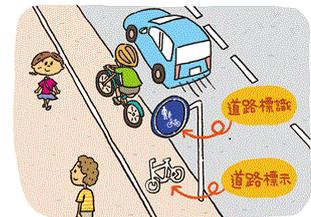
- ⑧ When riding on the sidewalk, give **priority to pedestrians**.

- ⑨ Do not ride your bicycle with 2 people on it. Only 1 person.



* When it is permissible to ride on the sidewalk *

1. When there is a sign or marking like the ones displayed on the right.
2. When the person riding is a child (12 years or younger), an elderly person (70 years or older), or a person with a physical disability.
3. When it is dangerous to ride on the roadway. (During road construction and repairs, etc.)
 - Ride slowly near the roadway **at a speed that allows you to stop immediately**.
 - Do not block the passage of pedestrians on the sidewalk.



◆Park your bicycle at a bicycle parking lot

Bicycles may be impounded if not parked in a bicycle parking lot. (You will have to pay a fine to get it back.)

Even if you find an unlocked bicycle, don't take it. (It is a crime to ride another person's bicycle without permission.)

The Sendai City homepage can be viewed in English, Chinese, Korean, Nepali and Vietnamese.

