

日本の交通ルールを学んで、快適なドライブを！

Learn the Rules of the Road in Japan for a Comfy Drive !



To All Readers



Thank you very much for reading this booklet.

As of 2023, there are nearly 310,000 traffic accidents annually in Japan, with approximately 2,700 fatalities.

Although the number of accidents, injuries, and fatalities are on a downward trend, the number of accidents caused by visitors from overseas are on the rise.

This booklet was created so that visitors from overseas can avoid causing or being the victim of traffic accidents.

Please read it thoroughly so that you can become familiar with the most important traffic rules and safety precautions for driving in Japan. Doing so will ensure a safer trip.

Your safety is the best souvenir for your friends and family.

Editing Department, SIGNAL Co., Ltd

Contents

Chapter 1: Driver Responsibilities

- Always have a valid driver's license on hand 2
- Never drive after consuming beverages
containing alcohol 3
- Always wear a seatbelt 4
- Do not use a mobile phone or pay too close attention
to the car navigation while driving 4

Chapter 2: Basic Rules of the Road and Precautions

- Drive on the left 5
- The speed limit is 60 kph 6
- Going through/turning left or right at red lights is prohibited... 6
- Stop when you see "止まれ" on road surfaces and signs... 8
- ★ Main Signs 10
- Do not block oncoming cars when turning right 11
- Drive slowly on the left side of the road when turning left... 11
- Yield to pedestrians 12
- Only park in designated spaces..... 13
- Stop before railroad crossings 14

Chapter 3: Precautions When Driving on Expressways

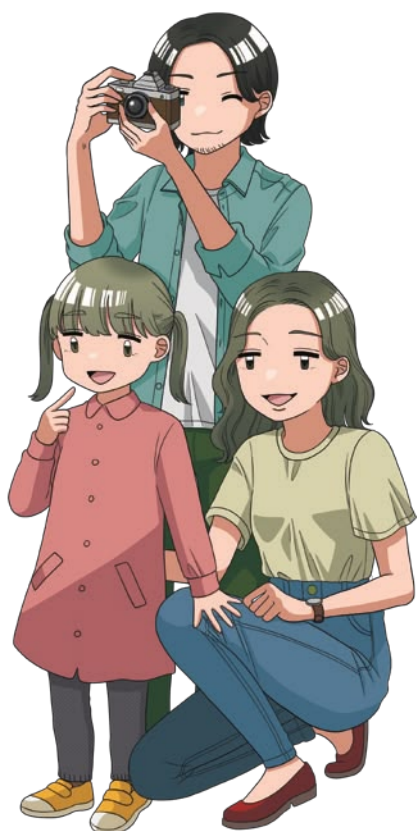
- Expressways are toll roads 15
- Obey the speed limit 15
- Travel in the left-hand lane 16
- Maintain proper distance between vehicles 16
- Do not park or stop 17
- Do not reverse or turn around 17

Chapter 4: Points for Avoiding Traffic Accidents

- Precautions for avoiding rear-end collisions 18
- Precautions for avoiding crossing collisions 20
- Precautions for avoiding collisions with bicycles 22
- Precautions for avoiding collisions with pedestrians ... 24

[Reference] Precautions and Techniques for Driving in Snow and on Frozen Roads 26

- If you cause an accident..... 29



Chapter 1 Driver Responsibilities

Always have a valid driver's license on hand

- To drive in Japan, you must have driver's license that is valid in Japan on hand at all times.
- Driving without a license carries severe legal penalties.

◆ Driver's licenses that can be used in Japan

- ① Japanese driver's license
- ② International driver's license based on the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic (Geneva Convention)
- ③ Foreign driver's license accepted for driving in Japan
 - Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium, Monaco, Taiwan

◆ Note: Driver's licenses from the above countries must have an attached Japanese language translation from the applicable country's embassy or consulate, the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF), the General German Automobile Club (Germany only), the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association (Taiwan only), etc.

■ Examples of international driver's licenses issued by parties to the Geneva Convention



◆ Period of time you can drive in Japan

- ① With a Japanese driver's license: While the license is valid
- ② With an international driver's license and ③ a foreign driver's license: One year from arrival date in Japan (Limited to the license period of validity)

◆ Penalties for driving without a license

Imprisonment for up to 3 years or a fine of up to ¥500,000

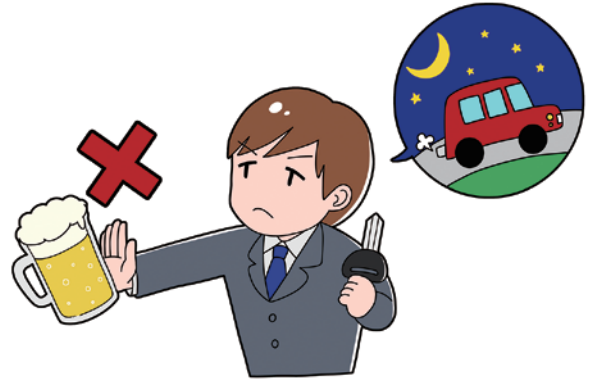
You must present your driver's license when asked to do so by a police officer in the course of enforcing traffic violations. If you do not have a license on hand, you will face penalties including fines.

★ Make sure to always have your passport on hand that shows the latest date of entry to Japan.



Never drive after consuming beverages containing alcohol

- In Japan, regulations for driving while under the influence of alcohol are severe. For example, you can be penalized even for drinking one or two cups of beer.
- Driving while alcohol is still in your system, even if it is the following day after drinking, is considered drunk driving.



◆ Penalties for driving under the influence of alcohol

Drunk driving

Driving while drunk, such as when speech or behavior are impaired, regardless of the amount of alcohol consumed

Imprisonment for up to 5 years or a fine of up to ¥1,000,000

Driving while intoxicated

Driving with an alcohol content of 0.15 mg per liter in a breathalyzer test or a blood alcohol content of 0.3 mg or more per 1 ml

Imprisonment for up to 3 years or a fine of up to ¥500,000

◆ Any accidents caused while driving under the influence of alcohol will incur more severe penalties.

- When causing the death of another person: **Maximum 20 years imprisonment**
- When injuring another person: **Maximum 15 years imprisonment**

[Dangerous Driving Causing Death or Injury laws apply]

- ◆ If "Dangerous Driving Causing Death or Injury" does not apply, "Negligent Driving Causing Death or Injury" applies, carrying 7 years jail time or imprisonment, or a fine of up to ¥1,000,000.

Prison Sentence

In many cases, fatal traffic accidents are punished with jail sentences.



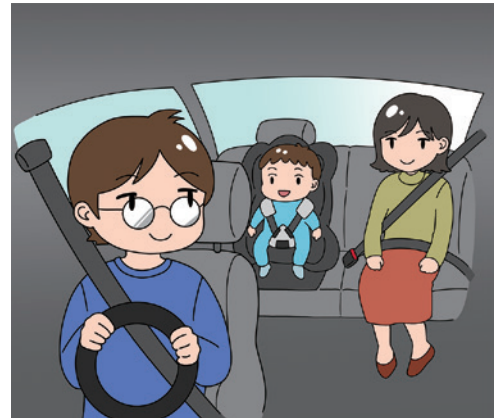
Chapter 1 Driver Responsibilities

Always wear a seatbelt

- You must wear a seatbelt when driving a car.
- The driver is responsible for ensuring that all passengers, including those in the passenger seat and rear seats, are wearing seatbelts.
- Children under six years of age must ride in a child seat.

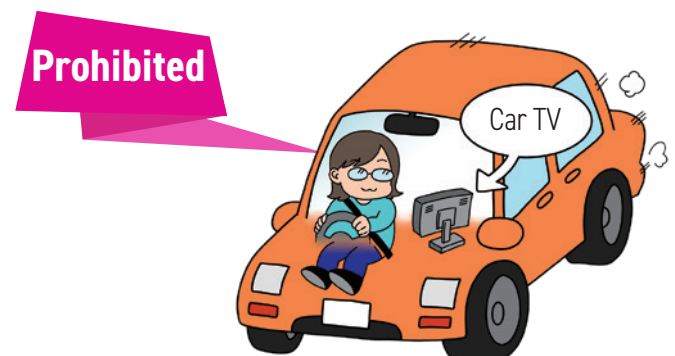
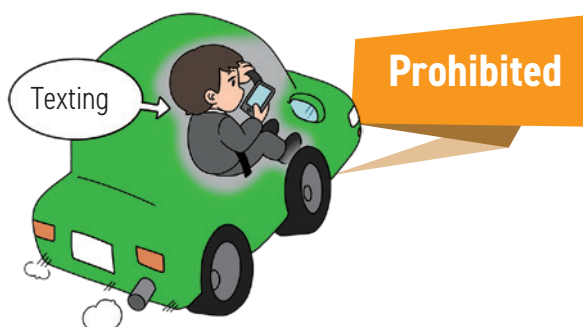


★ Make sure to choose a child seat that fits the child properly.



Do not use a mobile phone or pay too close attention to the car navigation while driving

- Talking or continuing to look at the screen of your mobile phone while driving is prohibited.
 - ★ Although hands-free talking on a mobile phone is not prohibited, it can be distracting, so please refrain from doing so whenever possible.
- Continuing to look at the car navigation system or car TV screen is also prohibited.
 - ★ If you need to talk on or use your mobile phone, or check directions on the car navigation system, make sure to stop in a safe location off the road.

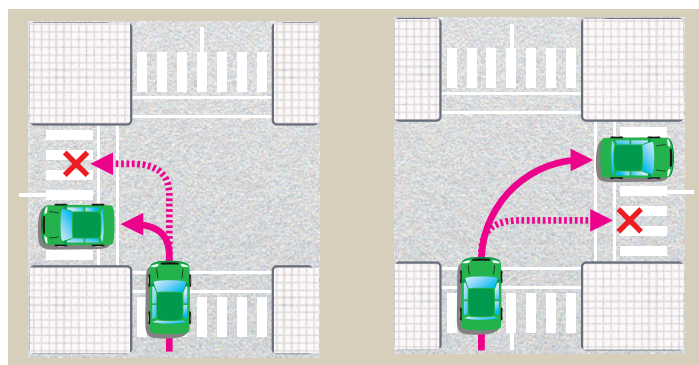


Drive on the left

- Cars are driven on the left side of the road in Japan, so you must drive to the left of the center of the road.

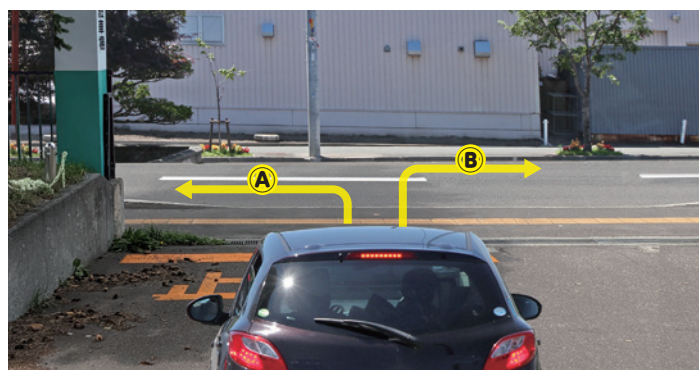


- ★ This is particularly important when turning left or right at an intersection, as drivers accustomed to driving on the right side of the road can mistakenly turn into oncoming traffic. Exercise adequate caution.



- ★ When exiting off-street parking onto a road, make sure to double check that you are driving on the left.

- ① When entering a road and heading left, turn left onto the closest lane.
- ② When entering a road and heading right, turn right onto the furthest lane.



Driving on the right side of the road is extremely dangerous in Japan, as it can cause head-on collisions!



- When driving, always remember to keep to the left side of the road!

- When riding as a passenger, remind the driver to pay attention!

- ★ Pay extra attention when driving in the suburbs or mountainous areas where there is little traffic, especially on curves!



The speed limit is 60 kph

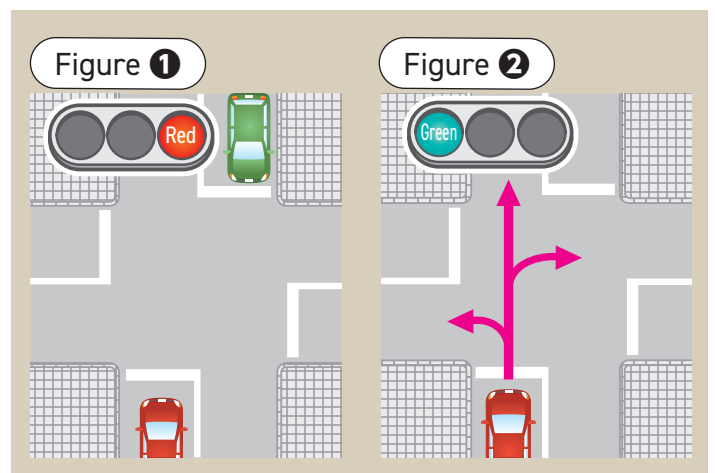
- On ordinary roads, the maximum speed limit is 60 kph, and on expressways, it is 100 kph. When there are no signs or road markings indicating the speed limit, the above limits must be observed.



- ◆ Note: Speed limits are posted in kilometers per hour.
(Reference: 60 kph is roughly equivalent to 37 mph, and 100 kph is roughly equivalent to 62 mph)
- ★ Not only must you observe the speed limits, you must also adjust your speed according to road and traffic conditions. For example, make sure to slow down when you have difficulty seeing ahead or if the road is narrowed due to construction.

Going through/turning left or right at red lights is prohibited

- If the traffic signal directly in front is red, you may not go straight or turn left or right. Even if there are no cars to the left or right, you must wait until the signal turns green (Figure ①).
- Once the signal turns green, you may go straight or turn left or right (Figure ②).
- However, you may proceed in the direction of the green arrow even if the traffic signal directly in front is red.
- Yellow arrow signals are for streetcars only. Automobiles may not proceed in the direction of such arrows.



- When there are signs or road markings indicating the speed limit, the posted speed limit must be observed.



- Road marking indicating the speed limit (ordinary road)



- Sign indicating the speed limit (expressway)



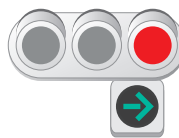
Signal Types and Meanings

Green



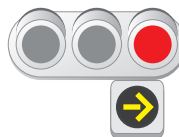
You may go straight or turn left or right.

Green arrow



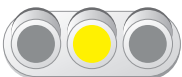
Automobiles may proceed in the direction of the arrow
(You may also turn around if the arrow points to the right).

Yellow arrow



For streetcars only. Automobiles may not proceed in the direction of the arrow.

Yellow



You must stop at the designated location.

■ However, you may go straight if it is not safe to stop.

Flashing yellow



You may proceed while watching out for other vehicles.

Red



You must stop at the designated location.

Flashing red



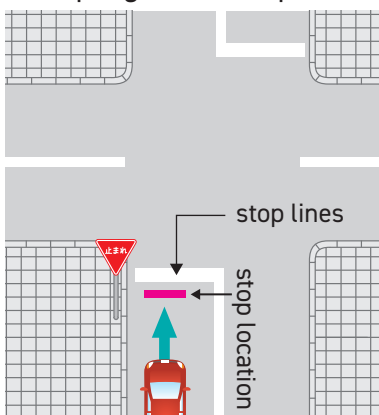
You must stop at the designated location.

Stop when you see "止まれ" on road surfaces and signs

- When you see a "止まれ" or "STOP" sign, you must stop directly before the stop line (directly before the intersection when there is no stop line) without blocking the flow of traffic on the intersecting road.
- Even at intersections with a clear view, you must observe the signs and stop.

◆ Note: "Stop" means that the car must come to a complete stop.

■ Stop signs and stop lines



- ★ It is easy to become too focused on finding your destination and to be distracted by the scenery, so make sure to pay extra attention to small intersections and signs.



Stay on guard even at intersections in the suburbs with a clear view and without a "止まれ" (STOP) sign!

- Many crossing collisions occur when entering intersections because the drivers do not notice the other car until or just before the collision, even when there is a clear view.
- Even at intersections with a clear view, such as when another car comes into view from far ahead, it can be difficult to notice the approach of the other car until the point of collision.

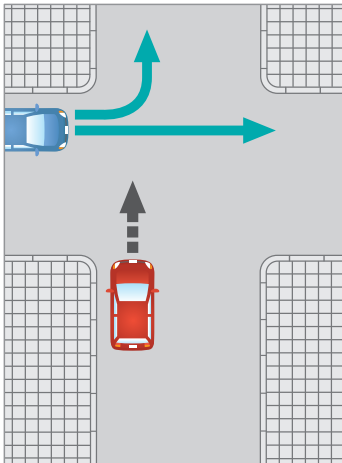


- ★ When driving on a straight road in the suburbs in particular, it is important to intentionally look left and right to check that the road is safe even at intersections with a clear view.

Traffic rules at intersections without a "止まれ" (STOP) sign

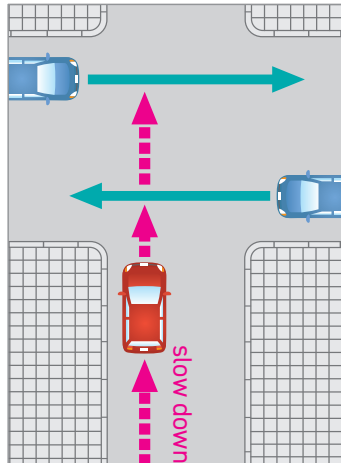
★ This section covers basic traffic rules at sections without stop signs or signals to direct traffic.

■ Direction of travel for cars



- You must not block the flow of traffic coming from the left.

■ Road width



- You must not block the flow of traffic coming from wide roads.

Even if you have the right of way, take extra care and make sure to check that the road is safe!

■ Through street

- You must not block the flow of traffic coming from a through street.

① Roads with through street signs

Through street sign



Yield sign

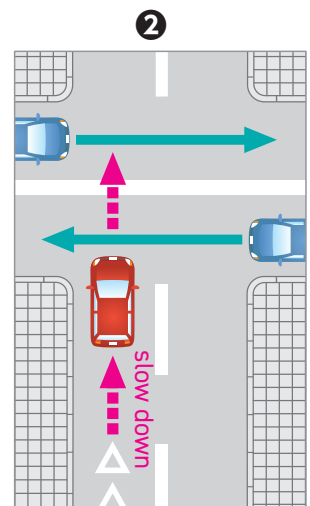


前方優先道路



前方優先道路

② Roads with a center lane at the intersection or continuous vehicle lanes



★ You must slow down when entering wide roads or through streets.

("Slow down" means driving at a speed that allows you to stop immediately.)

Main Signs

● Road closed



No passing through.

● Road closed to vehicles



● No parking



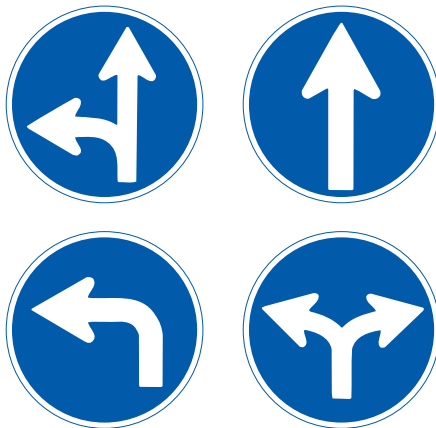
Parking is prohibited.

● No parking or stopping



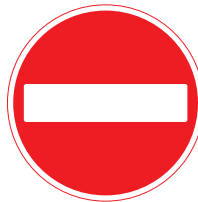
Parking and stopping are prohibited.

● Proceed only in indicated direction



You may only proceed in the direction indicated by the arrows.

● Closed to vehicles



Vehicles are not allowed.
(Posted near the exit of one-way roads.)

● Speed limit



Posted speed limits must be observed.

● One way



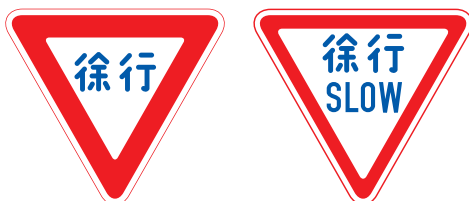
Vehicles may only proceed in the direction indicated by the arrow.

● Crosswalk



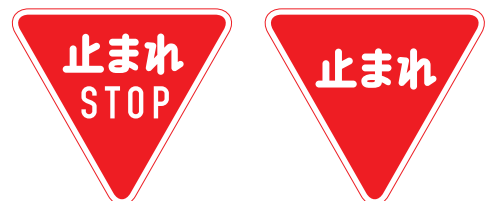
Posted at pedestrian crossings.

● Slow down



Vehicles must slow down.
("Slow down" means driving at a speed that allows you to stop immediately.)

● Stop



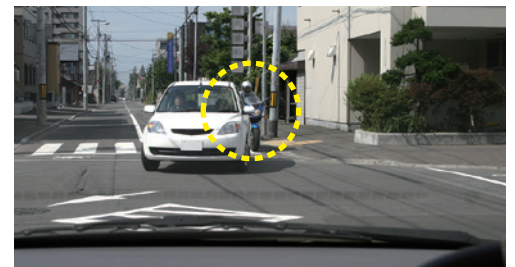
You must stop directly before the stop line when one is present, or directly before the intersection when there is no stop line.

Do not block oncoming cars when turning right

- Because cars drive on the left in Japan, if there are oncoming cars going straight through the intersection or attempting to turn left when you want to turn right, you must wait for them to pass without blocking them.



- ★ Before turning right, check the crosswalk on the right to make sure there are no pedestrians or cyclists.

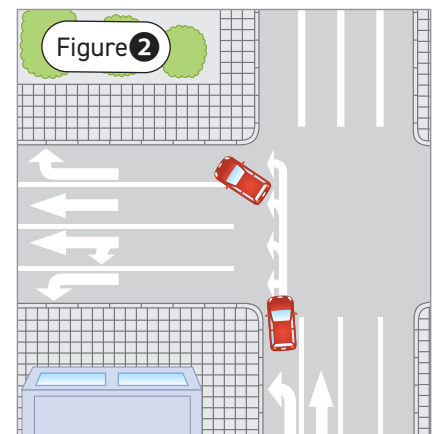
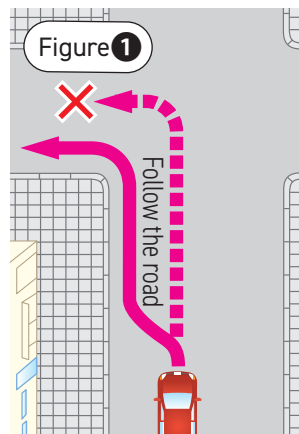


- ★ If there are any cars waiting to turn right in the oncoming traffic lane, make sure to check if there are any oncoming cars or motorcycles that may be coming from just out of view.

Drive slowly on the left side of the road when turning left

- ◆ Note: "Slow down" means driving at a speed that allows you to stop immediately.

- If you want to turn left, you must get as close to the left side of the road as possible in advance and drive slowly (Figure①).
- Observe all posted left turn road signs (Figure②).
- ★ Before turning left, check the crosswalk to make sure there are no pedestrians or cyclists crossing or attempting to cross.



Yield to pedestrians

Locations with crosswalks

- If a pedestrian is crossing or attempting to cross at a crosswalk, you must stop directly before the crosswalk (Photo on right).
- When approaching a crosswalk, you must proceed at a speed that allows you to stop immediately directly before the crosswalk unless it is clear that there are no pedestrians present.



★ If signs, etc., make the area near the crosswalk difficult to see, slow down and check the area carefully.

Locations without crosswalks

- If a pedestrian is crossing at a location without a crosswalk, such as at or near an intersection, you must not prevent them from crossing.



When passing pedestrians on the side

- When passing pedestrians on the side, you must either ensure that there is sufficient safe distance to do so or drive at a speed that allows you to stop immediately.



★ Many Japanese roads are very narrow. As a rule, pedestrians must walk on the right side, however, many also walk on the left.

Only park in designated spaces

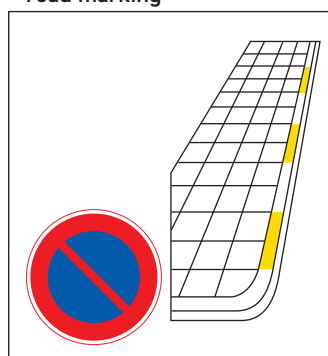
- You must not park in areas with No Parking and no parking or stopping signs or road markings.
- Parking and stopping are prohibited in areas with No Parking and No Parking Or Stopping signs or road markings.
- Even in areas without such signs or markings, parking is prohibited at or near intersections and crosswalks.

★ In the central areas of most Japanese cities, you will see No Parking and No Parking Or Stopping signs or road markings. Before visiting your destination, make sure to check in advance if it has parking spots or if there are parking spots nearby.

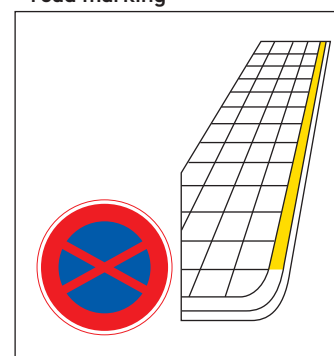
- Look for the **P** sign found on many parking lots in cities



■ No Parking street sign/
road marking



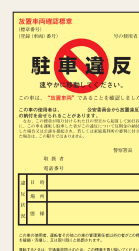
■ No Parking Or Stopping street sign/
road marking



- * "Parking" means a prolonged stop to load or unload cargo, etc. It also refers to when the driver leaves the car and cannot immediately move it.
- * "Stopping" means stopping but not parking the car. In addition to stopping to load and unload passengers, it can also refer to a prolonged stop of five minutes or less to load or unload cargo.

Parking Violations

- If you are in violation of parking ordinances, a sticker will be affixed to your vehicle. You must bring the sticker to a police station yourself.
- The driver who violated the law must pay a fine.



Chapter 2 Basic Rules of the Road and Precautions

Stop before railroad crossings

- Before attempting to pass through a railroad crossing, you must stop directly before it to check if it is safe to proceed.
- If traffic is at a standstill because the crossing barrier, etc., is malfunctioning, etc., you must warn others of the danger, such as by pressing the button on the railroad crossing emergency button.



- Stay out of the railroad crossing if you hear an alarm, if the crossing barrier is lowered, or has started to lower.
- If there is a risk of stopping on the railroad crossing because the road is congested in front of and behind you, you must keep out of the crossing.



★ Because Japan has such a vast railway network, there are many railroad crossings and occasionally accidents occur between trains and vehicles. Make sure to exercise adequate caution at railroad crossings.

Some rules unique to Japan

◆ Respecting new and elderly drivers

- You must not change lanes in a way that prevents drivers in cars with the following signs from pulling over or maintaining the proper distance from other cars.

● New driver



● Elderly driver



▼ REAR



▼ FRONT



● Hearing impaired driver

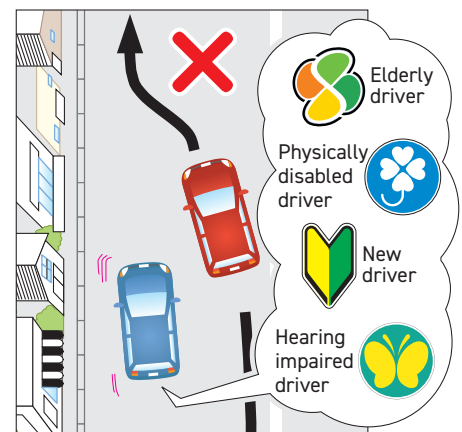


● Physically disabled driver



★ What the signs mean

- New driver: A driver who has had their license for less than one year
- Elderly driver: A driver who is 70 years of age or older
- Hearing impaired driver: A driver whose hearing does not meet designated standards
- Physically disabled driver: A driver who is physically impaired



Expressways are toll roads

- There are two gates at expressway entrances and exits, "一般" (General) and "ETC専用" (ETC Only).

◆Note: Some places have a gate for both General and ETC cars.

- When entering from the General gate, stop and take the ticket from the machine. At the exit, give the ticket to the toll operator and pay the toll.

◆Note: In some places, you must pay the toll when entering the expressway.



● General gate



● ETC gate



● General and ETC gate

- To use an ETC Only gate, you need an ETC card that can be used in Japan and an ETC unit in the car.

★Make sure to slow down to 20 kph or less when passing through the gate.

Obey the speed limit

- If there is no posted speed limit on the expressway, it is either 80, 90, or 100 kph depending on the type of vehicle, and 100 kph applies for ordinary vehicles.

● Posted speed limit



- You must not exceed the posted speed limit.

Information signs: Expressway signs are green, ordinary roads are blue

- The color of information signs is designated by law. Expressway signs are a combination of green and white whereas ordinary road signs are blue and white.



■ Example of expressway information signs



■ Example of ordinary road information signs

Travel in the left-hand lane

- If there are multiple lanes on a Japanese expressway, the lane furthest to the right is for passing. Normally, you must travel in the left-hand lane (traveling lane).
- After using the passing lane to overtake another car, you must immediately return to the left-hand lane while maintaining sufficient distance from the car you passed.
- You must not drive on the side strip or shoulder (bottom right photo).



Maintain proper distance between vehicles

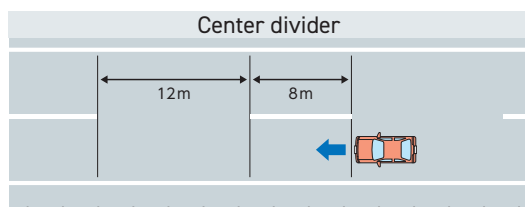
- You must maintain sufficient distance from the car in front of you so that you do not collide with it in case it suddenly slows down or stops.
- ★ As a guideline, you should maintain a minimum of 100 meters between cars when driving at 100 kph, and 80 meters when driving at 80 kph.
- ★ Make sure to check the car distance signs (photo on right) and the white lines (below drawing) to get an estimate of the distance from other cars.



● Car distance sign



● White lines



Do not park or stop

Even if you must stop to avoid danger or due to car trouble, an accident, or because of traffic, parking and stopping on expressways is prohibited excluding parking areas or other parking facilities.



Do not reverse or turn around

You must not reverse, turn around, or drive across the center divider.

- ★ If you accidentally pass your exit, take the next exit and go back.
- ★ If you accidentally pass a service area, stop at the next one instead.

When merging, make sure to speed up sufficiently in the acceleration lane

- ★ Speed up sufficiently in the acceleration lane and merge with traffic in the main lane while making sure it is safe to do so.



What should I do if I have car trouble or an accident on the expressway?

- ① Turn on your hazard lights and stop as close to the shoulder as possible.
- ② If there are passengers in the car, have them wait in a safe space on the outside of the guard rail.

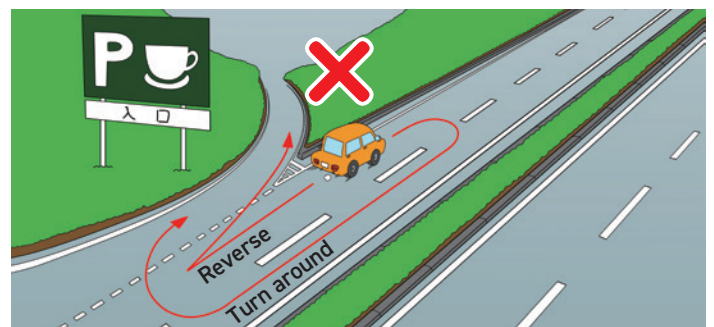


- ③ Place a road flare at the rear of the car along with a portable stop sign.
- ④ Contact the police by dialing 110 and use an emergency phone to request a tow truck or other emergency services.



★ Emergency phones are installed at roughly 1 kilometer intervals (200 meters in tunnels).

* Circular signs with an X indicate that a certain action is prohibited.



When exiting, slow down in the deceleration lane

- ★ Decelerating in the main lane can cause a collision with cars behind you. Make sure to change to the deceleration lane before slowing down.



Precautions for avoiding rear-end collisions

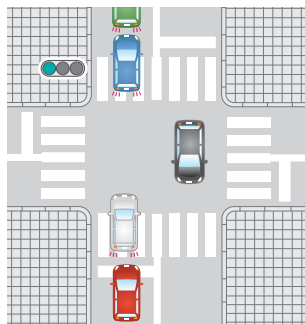


◆ Rear-end collisions are the most common type of accident in Japan. Even tourists from overseas end up in these accidents.

When traffic starts to back up

Assume that the car in front of you is going to slow down or stop even if the signal is green.

- Even if the signal is green, the road ahead can be congested, and the car in front of you may suddenly slow down or stop.
- Always keep an eye out for conditions ahead and try to predict the flow of traffic.



Even when traffic is moving smoothly

Assume that the car in front of you may suddenly slow down or stop near roadside facilities.

- Near roadside facilities such as filling stations and parking lots, the car in front of you may suddenly slow down or stop because of entering and exiting cars.
- Try to spot roadside facilities in advance and always be ready to brake.

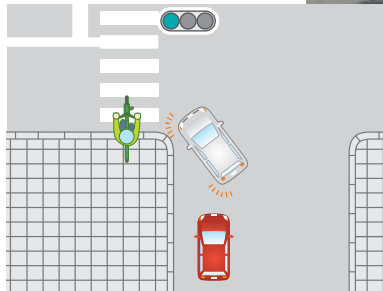


★ Roadside filling station

When the car in front of you is trying to turn left

Assume that the car in front of you will suddenly slow down or stop while turning left.

- The car in front of you may suddenly slow down or stop if they notice a pedestrian crossing the street or a cyclist while turning left.
- Check if there are any nearby pedestrians or cyclists that may cross and prepare for the car in front of you to suddenly slow down or stop.



When there is a taxi in front of you

Assume that it will suddenly slow down or stop to load or unload passengers.

- In addition to taxis, when driving behind delivery trucks making pickups and deliveries, make sure to maintain extra distance assuming that they will suddenly slow down or stop.



When driving on suburban roads

When there are a number of cars in front of you, assume that they will suddenly slow down or stop.

- When the road ahead is congested, the car in front of you may suddenly slow down or stop.
- When driving in the suburbs in particular, it is easy to be distracted by the scenery, so make sure to keep your eyes on the road.



Precautions for avoiding crossing collisions

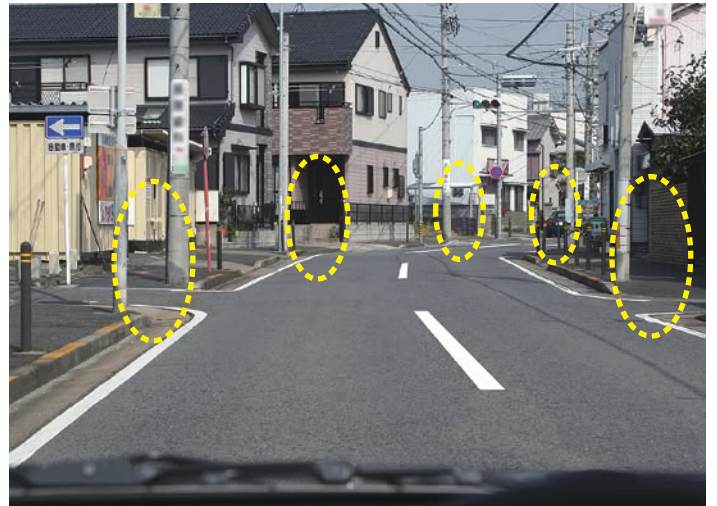


◆ Crossing collisions are one of the most common types of accidents in Japan. These are particularly common among drivers visiting from overseas who are unaccustomed to driving on the left.

When driving on backstreets through town

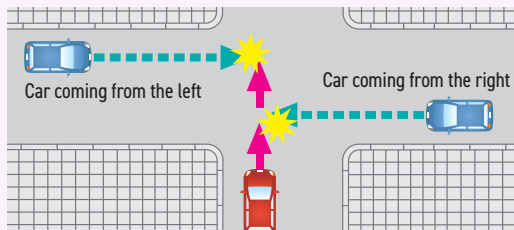
Pay attention to areas near the road and try to spot intersections as early as possible.

- Backstreets around town often have small intersections without traffic signals, and are easy to miss.
- Even though there may be few cars, keep on guard and do your best to drive while keeping an eye out for intersections.



Start your safety check from the right

- ★ There is a greater danger of cars coming from the right when driving on the left. At intersections without signals, check the right side, then the left to make sure it is safe to proceed.



There is a greater danger of cars coming from the right.

Cars must stop on the side of the intersecting road

However, keep on guard and watch out for crossing cars that may fail to stop.

- Even if there is a stop sign on the side of the intersecting road, other cars may simply proceed without bothering to stop.
- Always make sure there are no cars coming from the intersecting road before proceeding.



Before proceeding at a green light after waiting for the signal to change

Be on guard for cars that try to force their way through.

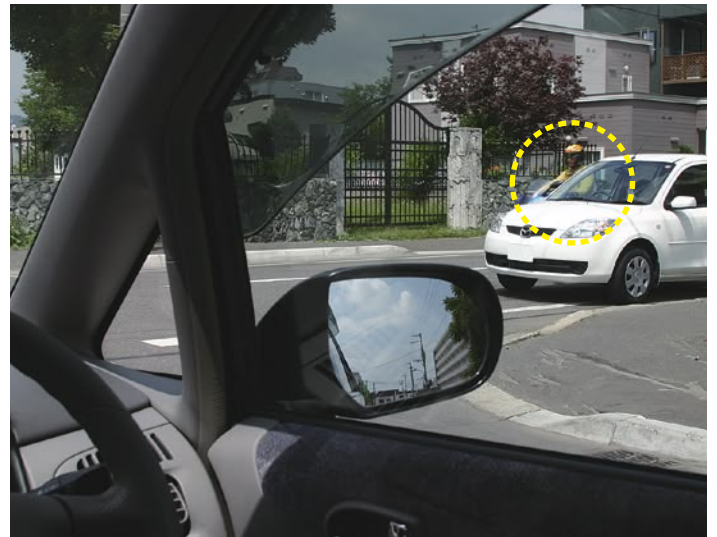
- Even if the signal on your side of the intersection is green, check for cars, etc., coming from the intersection road instead of simply proceeding.



When there is a parked or stopped car near the intersection

Assume that a motorcycle, etc., may come from behind the car.

- The stopped or parked car can block your view, making it impossible to see cars until it is too late.
- Make sure to check over the roof or through the windows of the car before proceeding, as motorcycles are easily hidden behind parked or stopped cars.



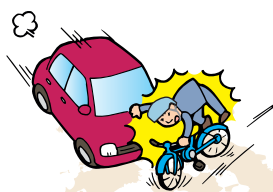
When driving on suburban roads with a clear view

Be on guard for cars coming onto the road.

- Pay particular attention on long, straight roads with a clear view while driving to try and spot intersections as far ahead as possible.
- If there is an intersection, intentionally look left and right to make sure no cars are coming onto the road.



Precautions for avoiding collisions with bicycles

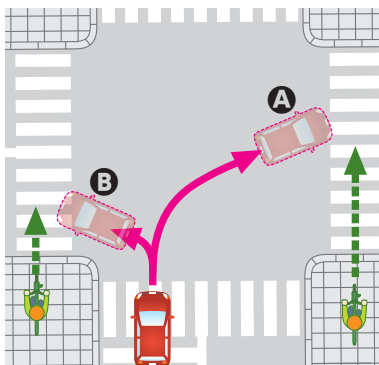


◆ Japan is known for a very high number of cyclists who ride without regard for rules wherever they are.

When turning left or right at intersections with a signal

Check if there are any cyclists on the sidewalk near the intersection.

- When turning left or right at an intersection and cutting across the crosswalk or bicycle crossing zone, accidents with cyclists often happen even though there was no bicycle when checking.
- Bicycles can travel faster than you may think, so instead of just checking the crosswalk and bicycle crossing zone, make sure to look at the sidewalk near the intersection to see if there are any cyclists.



A When turning right



B When turning left



When passing cyclists on the side

Keep on guard for bicycles that may suddenly change direction or wobble.

- It is easy to lose one's balance on a bicycle, and cyclists may suddenly change direction without checking behind them to see if it is safe to do so.
- When passing cyclists on the side, make sure you have plenty of space and watch how they are riding.



When passing through intersections with minimal traffic and no signals

Keep on guard for bicycles that may suddenly come out from an intersecting road.

- At intersections in residential neighborhoods where there is minimal traffic, many cyclists are not wary of cars, and ride out from intersecting roads without bothering to stop or check if it is safe to do so.
- For example, make sure to check thoroughly for any cyclists that may come from an intersecting road even if it has a stop sign.



When going from an alley with an obstructed view to a large street

Assume that cyclists will be on the sidewalk.

- If you suddenly drive close to the intersection to check for traffic on a large street, you run the risk of colliding with cyclists coming from the sidewalk to the left or right just before the intersection.
- After stopping in front of a sidewalk, make sure to proceed slowly and check for any cyclists on the sidewalk.



When passing through an intersection at night

Check if there are any cyclists riding without lights.

- Bicycles without lights are difficult to see at night. When passing through intersections without signals in particular, it can be difficult to see a cyclist coming from an intersecting road on the right when the lights of your car do not reach far enough.
- Use your high beams whenever possible, keep an eye out for small intersections, and make sure there are no bicycles without lights coming from an intersecting road.



Precautions for avoiding collisions with pedestrians

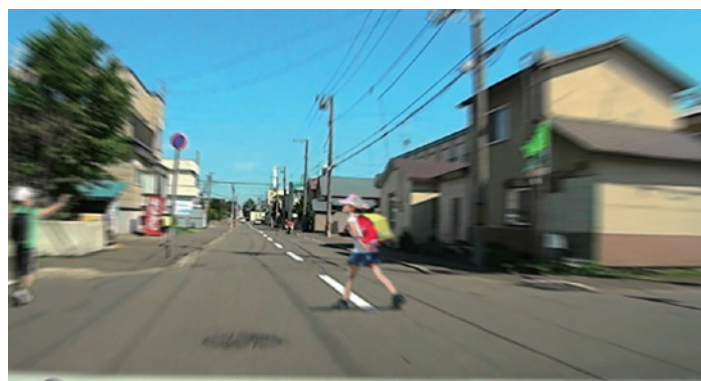


◆ The number of fatal traffic accidents with pedestrians in Japan is extremely high, accounting for nearly 40 percent of all fatal accidents.

When driving on roads near elementary schools or parks

Assume that children will run out into the street.

- Children tend to run out into the street. When in residential areas where there are many children, make sure drive more slowly and carefully than usual, always keeping an eye out for children.
- If you see children, you should not only remain on guard, but always keep an eye on the opposite side of the road as well and be ready in case they run out into the street.



When driving on residential roads

Assume that pedestrians will suddenly cross the road.

- On residential streets with minimal traffic, locals often suddenly cross the road without checking if it is safe to do so.
- Keep an eye on the sides of the road in the direction you're driving in, looking out for any pedestrians that may cross.



When turning left or right at an intersection with signals

Assume that there are pedestrians using the crosswalk on the side.

- When turning right, drivers tend to focus too much on the oncoming traffic and neglect to check if there are pedestrians coming from the right on the crosswalk.
- When turning left, drivers tend to miss pedestrians attempting to cross the intersection from the sidewalk on the left.
- Before turning left or right, make sure to keep an eye on the crosswalk and the nearby sidewalk and check if there are any pedestrians.

● When turning right



● When turning left

When the oncoming lane on the right is congested at sightseeing areas

Assume that pedestrians will cross between cars.

- Proceed at a speed that allows you to stop at any time while checking over the roof and through the windows of oncoming cars for pedestrians.



When driving on comparatively wide roads at night

Keep an eye on the front right side where your headlights may not reach.

- Because car headlights cannot sufficiently illuminate the front right side of a road, it can be difficult to notice pedestrians crossing from the right on wide roads until it is too late.
- Make sure to occasionally turn your high beams on so that they reach a wider area and keep an eye on the dark, front right side of the road where the light may not reach.



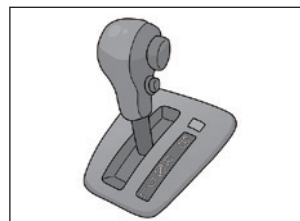
Taking off

Accumulated snow and frozen roads are extremely slippery, so pressing the accelerator even a little too much can cause the tires to spin, making it difficult to move forward.

- 1 In automatic vehicles, use idle creep to take off simply by releasing your foot from the brake pedal so that the car can move forward.
- 2 Once the car starts to move, gradually step down on the accelerator. Don't step down too much until you're sure you can drive in a stable fashion.



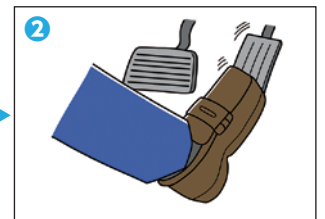
Take-off steps



★ Keep your foot on the brake and shift into D.



Release your foot from the brake (Idle creep starts and the car will begin moving slowly).



Once the car starts to move, place your foot on the accelerator to slowly, gradually build up speed.

While driving



If you operate the steering wheel and accelerator or the steering wheel and brake at the same time on accumulated snow or frozen roads, you can skid sideways and lose control of the car.

- To change directions, ①ease up on the accelerator, then ②turn the steering wheel.
- To turn left or right, decelerate sufficiently in advance, then ①ease up on the brake pedal and ②turn the steering wheel.

Stopping

- Braking hard on accumulated snow or frozen roads can cause the car to slip, resulting in a longer braking distance, putting you in danger of spinning.

- To stop, ease up on the accelerator early and gradually press the brake pedal.



The ABS does not shorten the braking distance.

- Most cars in Japan are equipped with ABS (anti-lock braking system).
- ABS prevents the tires from locking when suddenly braking on a slippery road, allowing the car to maintain stability in the direction of travel. It also allows the driver greater freedom to avoid obstacles by operating the steering wheel, however, cars equipped with ABS are not infallible on winter roads.
- On winter roads, it is best to hold the brakes in a position just before the wheels lock.

● Normal braking procedures

Adjust how hard you brake so that ABS is not triggered. If you unintentionally trigger ABS, ease up on the brake pedal to cancel it and then brake again.

◆ Note: While ABS is active, the brake pedal will vibrate.

● Emergency braking procedures

Press the brake pedal all the way. If ABS causes it to vibrate, instead of easing up, continue to press hard to decelerate and slow down.

★ If you cannot come to a complete stop safely, keep pressing the brake with ABS active and use the steering wheel to avoid any dangerous obstacles.

- If you indiscriminately turn the handle while skidding sideways, you can make the skid even worse.

- If you skid sideways while braking, ease up on the brake pedal.
- If you skid sideways while accelerating, ease up on the accelerator.



Ironclad rules for winter driving— Use studless tires on all wheels

- Compared to summertime, winter roads are extremely slippery, and the absolute minimum standard for safe driving is to use studless tires on all wheels as they offer better grip on accumulated snow and frozen roads.
- Make sure to use studless tires not only for when your destination is a snowy area, but also when driving in mountain passes where snow can accumulate.

◆ Note: Studless winter tires are made of rubber that resists becoming rigid at low temperatures.



When visibility is poor

It can be difficult to see traffic conditions during blizzards and heavy snowstorms, increasing the danger of colliding with the car in front of you or slipping off the road.

- Keep your headlights on so that other cars can see you. If there are cars in front of you, drive with enough distance between them so that you can occasionally see their taillights.
- If it is too difficult to continue driving in a blizzard etc., and you must stop, get as close to the left side of the road as possible and turn on your hazard lights.

★ It is dangerous to continue driving in blizzards and snow when you know it is not safe to do so. Before conditions worsen, head to a nearby store, etc., and wait indoors until the worst of the storm passes.



Locations that are particularly slippery

Slow down in advance of slippery locations and take care not to operate the steering wheel, brake, or accelerator unnecessarily.

① At and near intersections



② Curves



③ Declines



④ On bridges



⑤ Shady spots



If you cause an accident

■ Drivers who cause a traffic accident are obligated to immediately stop driving, help any injured persons, and take measures to prevent further danger on the road.

① Stop immediately and assess the situation

★ Check for the following:

- Are there any casualties?
- Can the damaged cars be driven?
- Have any hazardous liquids or materials spilled/been scattered?
- What is the location of the accident (collision)?



② Help the injured and take any necessary measures to prevent further accidents

★ Quickly do the following:

- Administer first aid if anyone is injured
- If your car can be driven, immediately move it to the shoulder or open spot near the site of the accident
- Turn on your hazard lights and open the rear trunk
- Signal cars coming from behind by using a road flare, etc.
- Set up a portable stop sign
- Clear away glass or any other scattered debris

◆ Note: If you are injured, contact the police even if your injuries are minor.



③ Contact the police and wait for instructions

★ Call 110 and report the following:

- Date, time, and location of the accident
- Number of casualties, severity of injuries
- Damaged items, severity of damages
- Cargo in the damaged car
- Preventive measures at the site of the accident



★ If you are using a rented car, contact the rent-a-car company as well.

★ Make sure to check the car equipment in advance so that you know how to use it in case of emergency.

● Emergency signal equipment

- ① Road flares
- ② Emergency signal light



● Portable stop sign

- ③ Portable stop light
- ④ Portable stop sign



If you're in trouble, don't hesitate to ask nearby people for help.

If you can't speak Japanese, point to the following phrases to communicate.

日本語が話せません。

I can't speak Japanese.

交通事故です。

I had a car accident.

車が故障しました。

I'm having car problems.

ケガをしています。

I'm injured.

警察を呼んでください。

Please call the police.

救急車を呼んでください。

Please call an ambulance.

給油所を探しています。

I'm looking for
a filling station.

駐車場を探しています。

I'm looking for
a parking space.