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**Level 5 – 4th November 2024**

## **Cyclists on mobile phones in Japan could face jail**

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241104-road-traffic-laws-cycling-5.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241104-road-traffic-laws-cycling-5.html>

Changes to traffic laws aimed at cyclists came into effect in Japan on Friday. New laws make it illegal to use mobile phones or be under the influence of alcohol while cycling. Cyclists using phones could get a six-month prison sentence or a fine of 100,000 yen (\$654). The penalties are harsher for those who drink alcohol and ride. Cyclists with more than 0.15 milligrams of alcohol per litre of breath could get three years in jail or be fined 500,000 yen (\$3,270). Moreover, restaurants that serve alcohol to cyclists may also be punished.

Japan's police agency reported a big rise in traffic accidents caused by cyclists using phones. There was a 50 per cent increase in the five years to 2023. The BBC reports that there were 72,000 bicycle accidents in Japan last year. This was 20 per cent of all traffic accidents. Most were caused by people under 20 years old. One reason for the rise in cycling-related accidents is more people are using bicycles instead of public transport because of the coronavirus pandemic. Authorities say raising public awareness of the new traffic rules could be a challenge.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cpqd2e1j132o>  
<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20241101/p2g/00m/0na/004000c>  
<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/society/general-news/20241102-220103/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241104-road-traffic-laws-cycling-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Changes to traffic laws aimed | a. those who drink     |
| 2. came into                     | b. of alcohol          |
| 3. New laws make                 | c. effect              |
| 4. be under the influence        | d. alcohol per litre   |
| 5. get a six-month prison        | e. at cyclists         |
| 6. The penalties are harsher for | f. sentence            |
| 7. 0.15 milligrams of            | g. alcohol to cyclists |
| 8. restaurants that serve        | h. it illegal          |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Japan's police                | a. five years to 2023   |
| 2. a big rise                    | b. awareness            |
| 3. a 50 per cent increase in the | c. rise                 |
| 4. This was 20 per cent of all   | d. in traffic accidents |
| 5. One reason for the            | e. be a challenge       |
| 6. using bicycles instead of     | f. traffic accidents    |
| 7. raising public                | g. agency               |
| 8. new traffic rules could       | h. public transport     |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241104-road-traffic-laws-cycling-5.html>

Changes to traffic (1) \_\_\_\_\_ cyclists came into effect in Japan on Friday. New laws make it illegal to use mobile phones or be (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of alcohol while cycling. Cyclists using phones could get a six-(3) \_\_\_\_\_ or a fine of 100,000 yen (\$654). The (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for those who drink alcohol and ride. Cyclists with more than 0.15 milligrams of alcohol per (5) \_\_\_\_\_ could get three years in jail or be fined 500,000 yen (\$3,270). Moreover, restaurants that serve alcohol to cyclists may (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Japan's (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a big rise in traffic accidents caused by cyclists using phones. There was a 50 per cent (8) \_\_\_\_\_ five years to 2023. The BBC reports that there were 72,000 bicycle accidents in Japan last year. This was 20 per cent of (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Most were caused by people under 20 years old. One reason for the rise (10) \_\_\_\_\_ accidents is more people are using bicycles instead (11) \_\_\_\_\_ because of the coronavirus pandemic. Authorities say raising public awareness of the new traffic rules could (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241104-road-traffic-laws-cycling-5.html>

Change to traffic laws aimed at cyclists came into effect in Japan on Friday. New laws make it illegal to use mobile phones or be under the influence of alcohol while cycling. Cyclists using phones could get a six-month prison sentence or a fine of 100,000 yen (\$654). The penalties are harsher for those who drink alcohol and ride. Cyclists with more than 0.15 milligrams of alcohol per litre of breath could get three years in jail or be fined 500,000 yen (\$3,270). Moreover, restaurants that serve alcohol to cyclists may also be punished. Japan's police agency reported a big rise in traffic accidents caused by cyclists using phones. There was a 50 percent increase in the five years to 2023. The BBC reports that there were 72,000 bicycle accidents in Japan last year. This was 20 percent of all traffic accidents. Most were caused by people under 20 years old. One reason for the rise in cycling-related accidents is more people are using bicycles instead of public transport because of the coronavirus pandemic. Authorities say raising public awareness of the new traffic rules could be a challenge.

# CYCLING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241104-road-traffic-laws-cycling-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about cycling in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

