

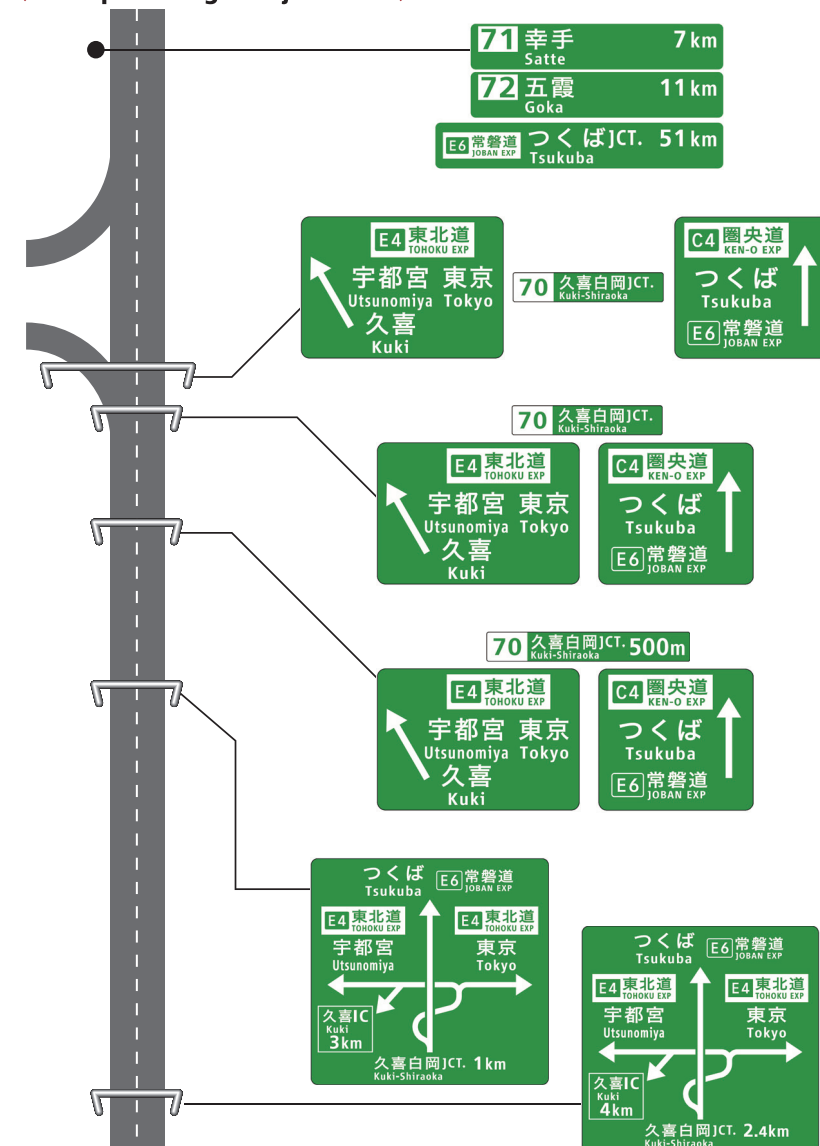
Road sign guidance

● Signs show both route numbers and route names.

◆ Examples of signs at expressway entrances ◆



◆ Examples of signs at junctions ◆



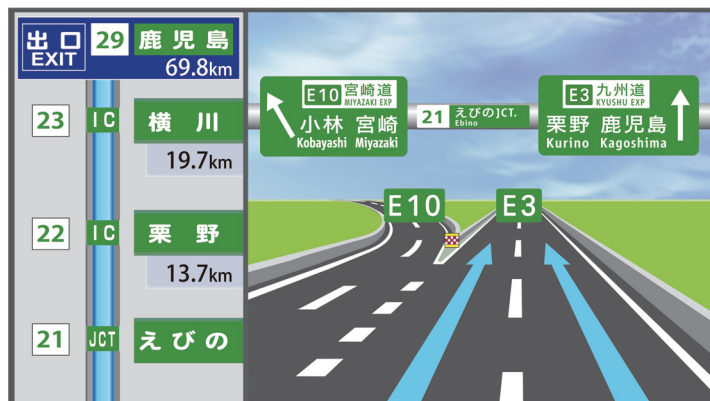
Application of expressway numbering

● The Expressway Numbering System is being applied to maps, car navigation systems, and various other tools and media.

◆ Example of numbering on a map ◆



◆ Example of numbering in a navigation system ◆



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Further details on the Expressway Numbering System are provided on the following website:
<http://www.mlit.go.jp/road/sign/numbering/index.html>

Current as of February 2017

Japan's Expressway Numbering System

Bringing an easy-to-understand route numbering system to the nation's expressways

The purpose of expressway numbering

- The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) is introducing this new numbering system, a scheme that combines route numbers with route names, to Japan's growing expressway network in order to make it easier to understand for all expressway users, including foreign visitors to Japan.



Routes covered by the Expressway Numbering System

- Routes forming the arterial high-standard highway network ("national expressways" and "national highways for motor vehicles only") as well as regional expressway networks that supplement this network
- Routes forming expressway networks that provide access to major airports, harbors, and tourist areas from the arterial high-standard highway network
(*Urban expressways that are already numbered [e.g., the Tokyo Metropolitan Expressway, Hanshin Expressway, etc.] are excluded from the new Expressway Numbering System.)

Basic features of the Expressway Numbering System

1. It's easy to get used to.

- ◆ The system uses the national route numbers (one or two digits) of main national routes that are already familiar to local residents.

2. It's simple and easy to understand.

- ◆ As a rule, numbers are limited to one or two digits.
- ◆ Routes having similar functions (for example, they have the same start and end points) are grouped into route "families."
- ◆ Road types and functions are indicated with alphabetic letters.
 - The letter "E" appearing at the beginning of a number indicates an expressway.
 - The letter "A" appearing at the end of a route number indicates a grouped route (i.e., road in a route family).
 - The letter "C" appearing at the beginning of a route number indicates a circular route.

3. It represents the structural layout of the nation.

- ◆ It establishes route "start" and "end" points to allow representation of the nation's structural layout using major expressway numbers.

Route symbol design



Single-digit number



Double-digit number



Circular route number

How to read route numbers

Route number	Japanese reading	English reading
E1	E-ichi	E-one
E56	E-goju-roku	E-fifty-six
C4	C-yon	C-four

