



## Traffic – the rules of the road

### 12. The invisible cyclist

09:45 minutes  
Two-track audio

**00:38** Christoph has a job that requires craftsmanship, an ability to visualise things in three dimensions, and musical talent – organ-building is no ordinary profession. Once, after work he cycles to a martial arts training session. It is a rainy evening and Christoph, dressed in dark clothes, cycles without lights. He collides with a car. The woman driving it hasn't seen him. He is injured and unconscious. The ambulance rushes Christoph to hospital. The car driver is beside herself. Occasionally Christoph's head still aches. But he is very lucky not to have been harmed any worse in the accident.

**04:05** Cyclists are much more vulnerable than car drivers. Accidents involving bicycles often produce severe injuries. Test 1: the lights. Working lights are crucial if a cyclist is to be seen at all. Test 2: clothing. Wearing the right clothes can prevent accidents. Light-coloured clothing is visible at 40 metres. Reflectors are already visible at about 140 metres. So, apart from good lights in front and at the back, clothing equipped with reflectors is essential. Test 3: the helmet. A good helmet is an absolute must for every cyclist. A simple test with a melon clearly shows the benefits of wearing a bicycle helmet.

**06:25** An expert on bicycle safety demonstrates the correct use of lights and shows what reflective vests and additional reflectors are available in bike shops.

**07:45** To this day, Christoph cannot remember the details of the accident. But he is well aware that he was very lucky indeed. These days he wears a helmet, wears light-coloured clothing and uses reflectors.