

# List of Common Bike Problems

This section provides an index of issues described by non-technical jargon to help you identify the problem with your bike and find a solution! The severity of items listed here goes from:

## Difficulty

1. EASY - Easily repaired with basic tools
2. BASIC - You can follow a guide and repair it with instructions and basic tools
3. INTERMEDIATE - Requires some generic tools that come with some repair kits, and understanding to repair
4. ADVANCED - Requires tools that aren't normally provided in repair kits and a good knowledge of bike functioning to repair.
5. EXPERIENCED- Requires specific tools and knowledge to resolve and will probably take a while (why not consider sharing tools in your neighbourhood?)

## Severity

1. LOW - You can ride on this for a while without problems
2. MEDIUM-LOW - It'll get worse, but not really a big issue
3. MEDIUM - It will get worse, and could lead to more repairs in the future
4. HIGH - Repair very soon - fix it so you can ride home, but don't ride it again
5. SEVERE - You need to repair this immediately, and it'd be dangerous to ride while in this condition.

Description of symptom	Key phrases	Severity	Difficulty	Likely cause	Solution
My gears are skipping or struggling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Slipping</li><li>• Gears</li><li>• Struggling</li></ul>	MEDIUM-LOW	BASIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gears are not indexed</li></ul>	<a href="#">Troubleshooting: Skipping or clicking gears (Indexing)</a>
I hear a clicking noise when pushing down on my pedals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clicking noise</li><li>• Pedals</li></ul>	MEDIUM-LOW	BASIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gears are not indexed</li></ul>	<a href="#">Troubleshooting: Skipping or clicking gears (Indexing)</a>

I hear a crunching noise when I push down on my pedals or stand up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crunching noise</li> <li>Pedals</li> <li>Standing</li> </ul>	MEDIUM	ADVANCED to EXPERIENCED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bottom bracket is loose</li> </ul>	Troubleshooting: Bottom bracket
The center part of my bike is wobbling while I cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wobbling</li> <li>Center part</li> <li>Pedals</li> </ul>	MEDIUM	ADVANCED to EXPERIENCED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bottom bracket is loose</li> </ul>	Troubleshooting: Bottom bracket
The center part of my bike has come loose and I can't pedal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Center part</li> <li>Detached</li> <li>Loose</li> <li>Can't pedal</li> <li>Won't move</li> </ul>	HIGH	ADVANCED to EXPERIENCED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bottom bracket is loose or more likely broken</li> </ul>	Troubleshooting: Bottom bracket
I felt something snap in the center part of my bike, and now I can't pedal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Felt snap</li> <li>Center part</li> <li>Detached</li> <li>Loose</li> <li>Can't pedal</li> <li>Won't move</li> </ul>	HIGH	ADVANCED to EXPERIENCED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bottom bracket is loose or more likely broken</li> </ul>	Troubleshooting: Bottom bracket
I can't change into the highest gear / I have to press hard to switch to the highest gear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High gear</li> <li>Stuck</li> <li>Hard</li> <li>Can't shift</li> </ul>	LOW	BASIC to INTERMEDIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gear cable is frayed/weak</li> <li>Gear cable is too tight</li> </ul>	Troubleshooting: Gear cables (front & back)
I can shift up big gears but I can't shift down	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low gear</li> <li>Stuck</li> <li>Hard</li> <li>Can't shift</li> </ul>	LOW	BASIC to HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gunk stuck in front derailleur</li> <li>Front Derailleur/spring is rusted</li> <li>Broken front derailleur</li> </ul>	Troubleshooting: Front derailleur

<p>When I cycle, the chain rubs against the center part of the bike</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chain rubbing</li> <li>• Making noise</li> </ul>	<p>LOW</p>	<p>EASY to INTERMEDIATE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Front derailleur is not positioned properly</li> <li>• Damaged derailleur or missing parts</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Troubleshooting: Front derailleur</a></p>

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