

7-Minute CDL Study Focus Check

Answer all nine questions without the key. Give yourself one point for each correct answer, then score each topic separately to choose the first place to review. This tiny sample is not a pass prediction or an official exam.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1. When another driver is tailgating your commercial vehicle, what is the safest response?

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Tap the brakes to warn the driver | C. Increase the space ahead and let the driver pass |
| B. Speed far above the limit to open a gap | D. Turn off the taillights |

2. If your vehicle begins to hydroplane, what should you do first?

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| A. Release the accelerator, push in the clutch if equipped, and avoid braking | C. Steer sharply left and right |
| B. Brake hard immediately | D. Accelerate until the tires grip |

3. After an emergency stop on the road or shoulder, warning devices must be placed within:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| A. 30 minutes | C. Whenever traffic becomes heavy |
| B. One hour | D. 10 minutes |

AIR BRAKES

4. After fully charging the air system, how do you test the low-pressure warning?

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| A. Drive at 5 mph and brake | C. Disconnect the trailer |
| B. Turn the engine off, leave electrical power on, and fan the brake pedal until the warning activates | D. Drain every air tank at once |

5. As pressure continues to fall, spring brakes should pop on at about:

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| A. 100 PSI | C. 20-45 PSI |
| B. 60 PSI | D. 5 PSI |

6. With S-cam brakes released, a push rod pulled by hand should move:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| A. Less than about one inch where it attaches to the slack adjuster | C. As far as possible |
| B. Exactly four inches | D. Only after the engine starts |

COMBINATION VEHICLES

7. When connecting glad hands, the trailer service line is usually marked:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| A. Red | C. Black |
| B. Green | D. Blue |

8. What can happen if a trailer is too high when you back under it?

- | | |
|--|--|
| A. The air lines connect automatically | C. The landing gear raises itself |
| B. The tractor may slide under without locking, causing a high hitch | D. The fifth wheel locks more securely |

9. When you have a choice, the safest direction for backing a tractor-trailer is:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| A. Toward the blind right side | C. Toward the driver's left side so you can see the trailer path |
| B. Whichever side is downhill | D. Direction does not matter |

Answer key and first study step

1. C Open more space ahead so you can slow gradually and let the tailgater pass. CDL Manual section 2.8	2. A Ease off the accelerator and avoid braking until traction returns. CDL Manual section 2.6	3. D Place warning devices within 10 minutes of the emergency stop. 49 CFR 392.22
4. B With the engine off and electrical power on, fan the brakes and note when the warning activates. CDL Manual section 5.3	5. C Spring brakes should activate in the 20-45 PSI range. CDL Manual section 5.3	6. A More than about one inch of movement can indicate a brake-adjustment problem. CDL Manual section 5.2
7. D The service/control line is blue; the emergency/supply line is red. CDL Manual section 6.3	8. B A high trailer may let the tractor slide under without the jaws locking around the kingpin. CDL Manual section 6.2	9. C Back toward the driver's side when possible so the trailer path is easier to see. CDL Manual section 6.1

Choose what to study first

Add General Knowledge (1-3), Air Brakes (4-6), and Combination Vehicles (7-9) separately.

0-1 correct: begin with that bank and its current state-manual section.

2 correct: review the missed concept, then take a focused quiz.

3 correct: keep the topic in rotation; three questions do not prove mastery.

Start with the lowest topic. On a tie, start with the bank required for your route that feels least familiar.



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