

CDL General Knowledge Foundation Worksheet

8 original questions, working space and separate answer explanations. Version 2026-10-27.

Scope

Core commercial-driving general knowledge; using an official state manual for common principles, not every state requirement or endorsement.

This is an untimed foundation study sample, not an official examination or complete mock test. Author-reviewed learning materials; independent educator review and learner calibration remain pending.

How to use this worksheet

Work through the questions before opening the answer section. Write your calculation or the reason for your choice. After checking the explanation, return to the linked lesson for any unfamiliar distinction.

<https://openexam.site/exams/cdl/worksheets/>

QUESTION 1 / Use an inspection sequence and resolve defects

A driver changes the walk-around order every morning. Which response best follows the general-knowledge guidance in the official commercial driver guide?

- A. Rely on yesterday's inspection because the vehicle is unchanged.
- B. Check only whichever component first attracts attention.
- C. Inspect only the parts visible from the cab window.
- D. Use the systematic sequence and confirm every required area.

Working / reasoning:

Item cdl-consistent-inspection-1 | Lesson: <https://openexam.site/exams/cdl/learn/inspection-sequence/>

QUESTION 2 / Plan a visible, controlled backing maneuver

A driver can choose a parking position that permits a forward departure. Which response best follows the general-knowledge guidance in the official commercial driver guide?

- A. Choose the practical forward route rather than unnecessary backing.
- B. Use reverse for convenience even with a clear pull-through option.
- C. Enter immediately and decide how to leave afterward.
- D. Back first because mirrors make rear vision complete.

Working / reasoning:

Item cdl-backing-avoid-2 | Lesson: <https://openexam.site/exams/cdl/learn/backing/>

QUESTION 3 / Observe early and preserve a following cushion

An entering vehicle could become a conflict several seconds later. Which response best follows the general-knowledge guidance in the official commercial driver guide?

- A. Ignore nearby vehicles while staring at a distant fixed point.
- B. Look far ahead only after nearby brake lights illuminate.
- C. Scan 12 to 15 seconds ahead and keep checking nearer hazards.
- D. Focus exclusively on the nearest rear bumper.

Working / reasoning:

Item cdl-look-ahead-3 | Lesson: <https://openexam.site/exams/cdl/learn/seeing-and-space/>

QUESTION 4 / Keep weight distribution and center of gravity appropriate

A loader puts the heaviest items on the top tier. Which response best follows the general-knowledge guidance in the official commercial driver guide?

- A. Move more heavy cargo upward to improve stability.
- B. Treat legal total weight as proof that any stacking height is safe.
- C. Lower the heavy cargo's position and reduce rollover risk.
- D. Rely on curve warning signs instead of load arrangement.

Working / reasoning:

Item cdl-load-center-4 | Lesson: <https://openexam.site/exams/cdl/learn/weight-and-balance/>

QUESTION 5 / Manage alertness, impairment, and conflict

A driver repeatedly yawns and misses signs. Which response best follows the general-knowledge guidance in the official commercial driver guide?

- A. Drive faster to finish before becoming more tired.
- B. Stop safely and get the needed rest.
- C. Treat loud music as proof of alertness.
- D. Rely on an open window as a lasting cure for fatigue.

Working / reasoning:

Item cdl-fatigue-rest-1 | Lesson: <https://openexam.site/exams/cdl/learn/fitness-and-attention/>

QUESTION 6 / Check the systems that make the trip safe

A wheel was recently changed and the vehicle has traveled a short distance. Which response best follows the general-knowledge guidance in the official commercial driver guide?

- A. Check fastener condition and tightness before proceeding.
- B. Ignore a missing nut because neighboring nuts remain.
- C. Cover the streaks with paint instead of investigating.
- D. Assume rust proves that the nuts cannot move.

Working / reasoning:

Item cdl-wheel-fasteners-2 | Lesson: <https://openexam.site/exams/cdl/learn/inspection-systems/>

QUESTION 7 / Prepare power, gear, and curve entry

A long hill begins beyond a crest. Which response best follows the general-knowledge guidance in the official commercial driver guide?

- A. Rely on continuous heavy braking instead of selecting a gear.
- B. Wait until the truck is rolling too fast to choose a gear.
- C. Coast in neutral to save fuel on the hill.
- D. Select the proper low gear before descending.

Working / reasoning:

Item cdl-downshift-grade-3 | Lesson: <https://openexam.site/exams/cdl/learn/power-and-gears/>

QUESTION 8 / Match speed to visibility and surface grip

A driver can see less road than the truck needs to stop. Which response best follows the general-knowledge guidance in the official commercial driver guide?

- A. Keep speed and assume unseen roadway will be clear.
- B. Follow another vehicle closely to extend the truck's headlight range.
- C. Use the posted maximum as proof of sufficient sight distance.
- D. Slow until the visible space covers the required stopping distance.

Working / reasoning:

Item cdl-visibility-speed-4 | Lesson: <https://openexam.site/exams/cdl/learn/speed-and-traction/>

CDL General Knowledge: Answers & Explanations

Compare the method or rule as well as the final answer. These explanations are study aids, not official scoring guidance.

QUESTION 1 / cdl-consistent-inspection-1

Answer: Use the systematic sequence and confirm every required area.

1. Identify the relevant condition: A driver changes the walk-around order every morning.
2. Use a consistent inspection sequence so important components are not omitted.
3. An improvised walk-around can repeatedly overlook an unfamiliar area.

QUESTION 2 / cdl-backing-avoid-2

Answer: Choose the practical forward route rather than unnecessary backing.

1. Identify the relevant condition: A driver can choose a parking position that permits a forward departure.
2. Avoid backing where a practical forward route exists because rear visibility is limited.
3. Planning the path before entering a confined area can remove the blind maneuver.

QUESTION 3 / cdl-look-ahead-3

Answer: Scan 12 to 15 seconds ahead and keep checking nearer hazards.

1. Identify the relevant condition: An entering vehicle could become a conflict several seconds later.
2. Look at least 12 to 15 seconds ahead while shifting attention between near and distant conditions.
3. Early observation permits gradual speed or lane adjustments instead of last-second reactions.

QUESTION 4 / cdl-load-center-4

Answer: Lower the heavy cargo's position and reduce rollover risk.

1. Identify the relevant condition: A loader puts the heaviest items on the top tier.
2. Keep cargo's center of gravity low to reduce rollover risk.
3. High heavy cargo raises the center of gravity even when total weight is legal.

QUESTION 5 / cdl-fatigue-rest-1

Answer: Stop safely and get the needed rest.

1. Identify the relevant condition: A driver repeatedly yawns and misses signs.
2. Stop and obtain adequate rest when fatigued; tricks do not replace sleep.
3. Drowsiness impairs observation and response even when the driver wants to continue.

QUESTION 6 / cdl-wheel-fasteners-2

Answer: Check fastener condition and tightness before proceeding.

1. Identify the relevant condition: A wheel was recently changed and the vehicle has traveled a short distance.
2. Rust streaks around wheel nuts can indicate looseness and require checking tightness.
3. Surface clues can reveal movement at the wheel fasteners before separation occurs.

QUESTION 7 / cdl-downshift-grade-3

Answer: Select the proper low gear before descending.

1. Identify the relevant condition: A long hill begins beyond a crest.
2. Select the proper low gear before descending a steep grade.
3. Changing too late can leave the vehicle without adequate engine braking while speed builds.

QUESTION 8 / cdl-visibility-speed-4

Answer: Slow until the visible space covers the required stopping distance.

1. Identify the relevant condition: A driver can see less road than the truck needs to stop.
2. Select a speed that permits stopping within the visible distance ahead.
3. A speed suitable for clear daylight may overrun the available view in darkness or fog.

References and scope notes

The questions and teaching explanations are original catalog materials. References support the selected concepts; they are not endorsements or a reproduced official examination bank.

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<https://dol.wa.gov/driver-licenses-and-permits/commercial-driver-licenses-cdl/cdl-training-and-testing/commercial-driver-guides/commercial-driver-guide-text-only>

General knowledge foundations only; air-brake, combination, tanker, passenger, school-bus, doubles/triples, and hazardous-material endorsement coverage is incomplete.

The retained Washington official guide supports common principles; current licensing procedures and local legal requirements must be checked with the issuing state.

Multiple contexts share a rule family; 200 items do not mean 200 independent rules.

Professional CDL-instructor review and learner calibration remain pending.

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