



# Pre-Trip Mnemonics Cards

Quick memory aids for confident CDL inspection practice



## How to use this handout

Use these mnemonics to organize your pre-trip language. Practice out loud until it sounds natural and complete.

PRACTICE OUT LOUD

**Core Script** Start with the language that keeps your inspection organized.

### TNT

#### Touch - Name - Tell Safe

- Touch or point to the part.
- Name what it is.
- Tell the examiner why it is safe.

### PMS

#### Properly Mounted & Secured

- Part is attached correctly.
- No missing bolts, loose mounts, or unsafe movement.

### NLD

#### No Leaks or Damage

- Use for fluids, hoses, lines, seals, and visible component checks.
- Look underneath and around the part.

### CBB

#### Not Cracked, Bent, Broken

- Use for metal, frame, suspension, steering, rims, mounts, and structural parts.
- Say it clearly and confidently.

### ABC

#### Abrasions, Bulges, Cuts

- Use for hoses, belts, and tires.
- Check visible condition and explain what would make it unsafe.

## Trainer Tip

Do not just memorize words - know what the part does, what makes it unsafe, and how to explain it under pressure.

Start ELDT  
Scan QR code



# Pre-Trip Practice Cards

Use each card to rehearse the major inspection areas before permit practice, pre-trip sessions, or test day.

## Engine Compartment

- Hoses/lines: PMS, NLD, ABC.
- Belts: proper tension with no frays.
- Fluids: oil, coolant, and power steering at proper level.
- Leaks: no leaks under the engine.

## In-Cab & Start

- Safe start: neutral and parking brake set.
- Gauges: oil pressure, temperature, and voltage in normal range.
- Horn, wipers, and defroster work.
- Emergency gear: fire extinguisher and triangles.

## Air Brake Checks

- Applied and leak tests: follow your state specs.
- Low-air warning and spring brake check.
- Service brake and parking brake tests.
- Verbalize PSI/time results confidently.

## Steering & Suspension

- Steering play within legal/state limits.
- Pitman arm, drag link, and tie rods: PMS.
- Springs, U-bolts, and shocks: PMS, NLD.
- No cracked, bent, broken, or missing parts.

## Coupling

- Air and electrical lines: PMS, NLD, ABC.
- Fifth wheel locked with no gap.
- Platform and mounting: PMS, no cracks.
- Kingpin and apron: not bent or damaged.

## Lights, Tires & Rims

- Lights and reflectors: clean and proper color.
- Tires: even wear and proper PSI.
- Rims: no cracks or illegal welds.
- Lugs: present, tight, no rust trails.

## Trailer & Rear

- Side and rear secure with DOT tape visible.
- Landing gear up and doors secure.
- Splash guards present.
- Brakes, drums, and linings: PMS.

## Practice Reminder



### Ready for ELDT?

Scan to start online ELDT theory training with Gorgeous TruckHers Inc.

- Speak clearly.
- Move slowly.
- Point, name, explain.
- Use your official manual.

## Pre-trip success is not magic.

It is repetition, rhythm, confidence, and knowing what safe actually looks like.