100 Most-Tested Numbers — CDL Permit Tests (PermitCram lead magnet)

Every number below is drawn from the official model CDL manual and drilled in the full PermitCram course. PermitCram is a study aid for the written knowledge tests only — not ELDT training, not a driving school, no pass guarantee.

1. Class A CDL is required for a combination vehicle with GCWR of ___? 26,001 lb or more, with the towed unit over 10,000 lb GCWR (§1.1) — Hook: A = Any big combo: 26,001 total and the trailer tops ten.

2. Class B CDL covers a single vehicle with GVWR of ___? 26,001 lb or more (§1.1) — Hook: B = Big single: one vehicle, 26,001.

3. Class C CDL covers vehicles that carry ___? 16 or more passengers (including the driver), or placarded hazmat (§1.1) — Hook: C = Crowd or Chemicals: 16 people or placards.

4. A towed unit triggers the Class A rule when its GCWR is more than ___? 10,000 lb (§1.1) — Hook: Trailer over ten, think A then.

5. You must hold a Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP) for at least ___? 14 days before the skills test (§1.2) — Hook: Two weeks with the permit — 14 before you test skills.

6. The knowledge-test pass score on EACH test is ___? 80% (§1.2) — Hook: 80 on every test — no averaging, no rescue.

7. Failing the air brakes test (or not taking it) puts this restriction on your CDL ___? L — no air-brake vehicles (§1.2) — Hook: L = Lacks air brakes. No air, no drive.

8. The blood alcohol concentration (BAC) that is illegal when driving a CMV is ___? 0.04% (§1.3) — Hook: Four for the trucker: 0.04.

9. Driving a CMV with any detectable alcohol under 0.04 puts you out of service for ___? 24 hours (§1.3) — Hook: Any drink, a full day out: 24 hours.

10. First DUI offense in a CMV disqualifies you for ___? 1 year (§1.3) — Hook: First strike, one year out.

11. First DUI offense while hauling placarded hazmat disqualifies you for ___? 3 years (§1.3) — Hook: Hazmat triples it: 3 years.

12. A second DUI offense disqualifies you for ___? Life (§1.3) — Hook: Second strike, gone for life.

13. Refusing an alcohol test when required counts the same as ___? Failing the test (a DUI offense) (§1.3) — Hook: Refuse = fail. Same penalty.

14. Leaving the scene of an accident in a CMV is a ___? Major offense — 1 year disqualification (first offense) (§1.3) — Hook: Leave the scene, lose the license for a year.

15. Using a CMV to commit a felony involving controlled substances disqualifies you for ___? Life, with no reinstatement (§1.3) — Hook: Drugs in the truck, done forever.

16. Serious traffic violations (15+ mph over, reckless driving, improper lane change) — two in 3 years disqualify you for ___? 60 days (§1.4) — Hook: Two serious, sixty days sitting.

17. Three serious traffic violations in 3 years disqualify you for ___? 120 days (§1.4) — Hook: Three serious, 120 days.

18. First railroad-crossing violation disqualifies you for at least ___? 60 days (§1.4) — Hook: Tracks first time: 60 days minimum.

19. Second railroad-crossing violation (in 3 years) disqualifies you for ___? 120 days (§1.4) — Hook: Tracks second time: 120.

20. You must notify your employer of a traffic conviction (other than parking) within ___? 30 days (§1.5) — Hook: Tell the boss in 30 — convictions.

21. If your license is suspended, revoked, or cancelled you must tell your employer ___? By the end of the next business day (§1.5) — Hook: License gone? Tell them tomorrow — next business day.

22. You may hold only ___? One driver's license (one CDL) (§1.5) — Hook: One driver, one license.

23. Your CLP/CDL application must list every state you were licensed in for the past ___? 10 years (§1.5) — Hook: Ten-year license history.

24. A vehicle needs a CDL (Class B/C by weight) when designed for freight over ___? 26,000 lb GVWR — the trigger is 26,001 lb or more (§1.1) — Hook: 26,001 is the magic weight line.

25. To get a CLP you must first pass the ___? Knowledge (written) tests for the class and endorsements you want (§1.2) — Hook: Written first, permit second.

26. ELDT training from a Training Provider Registry (TPR) provider is required before the skills test for ___? First-time Class A or B, and first-time P, S, or H applicants (§1.2) — Hook: ELDT gates skills for A, B, P, S — and the H knowledge test.

27. For a first HazMat endorsement, ELDT theory must be completed before ___? The HazMat knowledge test itself (§1.2) — Hook: HazMat: ELDT before the written test.

28. Driving a CMV while your CDL is disqualified is ___? A major offense that extends disqualification (§1.3) — Hook: Drive disqualified, dig the hole deeper.

29. Following too closely and fatal-traffic accidents are classed as ___? Serious traffic violations (§1.4) — Hook: Serious list: speed, reckless, lane, following, fatal crash.

30. A driver disqualified in another state is ___? Disqualified everywhere — you may not drive a CMV (§1.5) — Hook: One state's ban is every state's ban.

31. Interstate commerce rules apply when you cross state lines OR when ___? The cargo is part of a trip that crosses a state or national border (§1.1) — Hook: If the load crosses, so do you — interstate.

32. Most states set the minimum age for interstate CDL driving at ___? 21 years old (§1.2) — Hook: 21 to cross state lines.

33. A DUI in your personal car affects your CDL ___? Yes — major offenses in ANY vehicle count against the CDL (§1.3) — Hook: Your car DUI is a CDL problem too.

34. An out-of-service violation (driving during an out-of-service order) — first offense disqualifies for ___? At least 180 days to 1 year (§1.4) — Hook: Drive on an OOS order, sit for months.

35. Medical certificate: you must carry your medical card and keep it current, and most CDL drivers must self-certify their driving type ___? At application, renewal, and whenever your status changes (§1.5) — Hook: Med card current, self-certify honest.

36. The 'K' restriction means ___? Intrastate only — no interstate driving (§1.1) — Hook: K keeps you in-state.

37. An 'E' restriction means ___? No manual-transmission CMV (§1.1) — Hook: E = automatic only (no manual).

38. Before the skills test, first-time applicants must show ELDT completion from ___? A provider listed on FMCSA's Training Provider Registry (§1.2) — Hook: TPR or it does not count.

39. Hook: "A = Any big combo: 26,001 total and the trailer tops ten." — what rule does it carry? Class A CDL is required for a combination vehicle with GCWR of 26,001 lb or more, with the towed unit over 10,000 lb GCWR (§1.1)

40. Hook: "B = Big single: one vehicle, 26,001." — what rule does it carry? Class B CDL covers a single vehicle with GVWR of 26,001 lb or more (§1.1)

41. Hook: "C = Crowd or Chemicals: 16 people or placards." — what rule does it carry? Class C CDL covers vehicles that carry 16 or more passengers (including the driver), or placarded hazmat (§1.1)

42. Hook: "Trailer over ten, think A then." — what rule does it carry? A towed unit triggers the Class A rule when its GCWR is more than 10,000 lb (§1.1)

43. Hook: "Two weeks with the permit — 14 before you test skills." — what rule does it carry? You must hold a Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP) for at least 14 days before the skills test (§1.2)

44. Hook: "80 on every test — no averaging, no rescue." — what rule does it carry? The knowledge-test pass score on EACH test is 80% (§1.2)

45. Hook: "L = Lacks air brakes. No air, no drive." — what rule does it carry? Failing the air brakes test (or not taking it) puts this restriction on your CDL L — no air-brake vehicles (§1.2)

46. Hook: "Four for the trucker: 0.04." — what rule does it carry? The blood alcohol concentration (BAC) that is illegal when driving a CMV is 0.04% (§1.3)

47. Hook: "Any drink, a full day out: 24 hours." — what rule does it carry? Driving a CMV with any detectable alcohol under 0.04 puts you out of service for 24 hours (§1.3)

48. Hook: "First strike, one year out." — what rule does it carry? First DUI offense in a CMV disqualifies you for 1 year (§1.3)

49. Hook: "Hazmat triples it: 3 years." — what rule does it carry? First DUI offense while hauling placarded hazmat disqualifies you for 3 years (§1.3)

50. Hook: "Second strike, gone for life." — what rule does it carry? A second DUI offense disqualifies you for Life (§1.3)

51. Steer-axle (front) tires need a minimum tread depth of ___? 4/32 inch (§2.1) — Hook: Steer needs more: 4 in front.

52. All non-steer tires need a minimum tread depth of ___? 2/32 inch (§2.1) — Hook: Others get by with 2 — steer gets 4.

53. During a pre-trip inspection, lug nuts are checked for ___? Rust trails, cracks, and looseness — signs a wheel is working loose (§2.1) — Hook: Rust streaks = loose wheel warning.

54. A tire with re-grooved, recapped, or retread construction may NOT be used on ___? The front (steering) axle of a bus — and retreads are barred from bus front wheels (§2.1) — Hook: Never trust a retread to steer a bus.

55. Cracked or broken wheel rims, missing lugs, and elongated bolt holes mean ___? Do not drive — the wheel is unsafe (§2.1) — Hook: Broken rim, parked truck.

56. Hub oil seals leaking and missing hub caps matter because ___? The hub can run dry and the wheel bearing can fail (§2.1) — Hook: Dry hub, dead bearing.

57. Suspension defects that put you out of service include ___? Cracked/broken spring hangers, broken leaves in a leaf spring, and leaking shock absorbers (§2.1) — Hook: Broken spring parts = parked.

58. Steering play: too much free play in the steering wheel means ___? The steering is worn or loose and must be fixed before driving (§2.1) — Hook: Loose wheel, loose control.

59. When checking engine fluids and belts, a belt should not be loose enough to deflect more than about ___? 3/4 inch at the center of the span (§2.1) — Hook: Belt slop over 3/4 is too much.

60. A pre-trip inspection must be documented because ___? You must report defects from the previous driver and your own — and sign off review (§2.1) — Hook: Inspect it, write it, sign it.

61. The safest way to stop a vehicle WITHOUT a working service brake includes ___? Using the parking brake, downshifting, and finding an escape route/uphill grade (§2.2) — Hook: No brakes: park brake, lower gear, escape uphill.

62. Double-clutching is needed on many heavy transmissions because ___? You must match engine speed to road speed to shift without grinding (§2.2) — Hook: Rev to match, then shift.

63. When you double-clutch UPshift, you ___? Let engine RPM drop to match the higher gear, then shift (§2.2) — Hook: Upshift: revs fall. Downshift: revs rise.

64. Downshift BEFORE a downgrade or curve because ___? Shifting in the curve or mid-grade can be impossible and brakes overheat (§2.2) — Hook: Gear down before, never during.

65. Retarders (engine brakes) should be OFF when the road is ___? Wet, icy, or slippery — they can drive a skid on the drive axles (§2.2) — Hook: Slippery? Retarder off.

66. The basic rule for speed on a downgrade: choose a speed where you can ___? Use light, steady braking or engine braking without overheating the brakes (§2.2) — Hook: Slow enough that brakes stay cool.

67. If you miss your exit on a highway, you should ___? Go to the next exit — never back up or make a sudden turn (§2.2) — Hook: Missed it? Next exit. Never back up.

68. You should look ahead of your vehicle about ___? 12 to 15 seconds (§2.3) — Hook: Eyes 12 to 15 seconds out.

69. At highway speed, 12–15 seconds of look-ahead is about ___? 1/4 mile (§2.3) — Hook: Quarter mile at highway speed.

70. Check your mirrors regularly, and especially ___? Before changing lanes, turning, merging, and slowing (§2.3) — Hook: Mirrors before every move.

71. Signal your intention to turn or change lanes ___? Early — well before the move, and keep it on through the turn (§2.3) — Hook: Signal early, cancel after.

72. When another driver makes a mistake near you, the professional response is ___? Give them room — yield the right of way to avoid a crash (§2.3) — Hook: Room beats right-of-way.

73. At night and when a vehicle is close behind, communicate with ___? Signals, brake-light taps, and four-way flashers when slowing unexpectedly (§2.3) — Hook: Flash the brakes to warn behind.

74. Under 40 mph, keep at least ___? 1 second of following distance for each 10 feet of vehicle length (§2.4) — Hook: One per ten under forty.

75. Over 40 mph, the following-distance rule becomes ___? 1 second per 10 feet of length, PLUS one extra second (§2.4) — Hook: Over forty, add one more.

76. Total stopping distance is ___? Perception distance + reaction distance + braking distance (§2.4) — Hook: See it, react, then brake — all three add up.

77. Perception distance is based on a perception time of about ___? 1 3/4 seconds (§2.4) — Hook: Perceive in 1¾ — the slowest step.

78. Average reaction time (foot to brake) is about ___? 3/4 to 1 second (§2.4) — Hook: React in about 3/4 to 1.

79. If you double your speed, braking distance grows by about ___? Four times (it is squared) (§2.4) — Hook: Double the speed, quadruple the braking.

80. Hydroplaning can start at speeds as low as ___? About 30 mph (§2.4) — Hook: Thirty can float you.

81. On packed snow, you should reduce your speed by ___? Half or more (§2.4) — Hook: Wet a third, snow a half, ice a crawl.

82. A safe speed for a curve is a speed where you enter ___? Slow enough to not need braking in the curve — lean slightly OUT warns you are too fast (§2.4) — Hook: Slow in, never brake hard mid-curve.

83. Space ahead matters most when ___? Traffic is heavy, you are merging, or the vehicle ahead is small/slow to see around (§2.4) — Hook: Crowded road, bigger gap.

84. When being tailgated, the safest response is ___? Increase your following distance ahead and avoid quick changes — let them pass (§2.4) — Hook: Tailgated? Add space in front.

85. Overhead clearance: never assume posted clearance is exact because ___? Repaving and snow/ice change the real clearance (§2.4) — Hook: Repave raises the road, lowers your room.

86. On a downgrade, your speed should be set so total braking effort stays light — 'snub braking' means ___? Apply brakes firmly to drop about 5 mph below your safe speed, then release and repeat (§2.4) — Hook: Snub: firm, drop five, release.

87. At night, drive slow enough to stop within ___? The distance you can see ahead (your headlight range) (§2.5) — Hook: Night rule: stop inside your lights.

88. Dim high beams when within ___? 500 feet of an oncoming vehicle (§2.5) — Hook: Dim at 500 for oncoming traffic.

89. Glare recovery: after being blinded by oncoming lights, it can take ___? Several seconds — look at the right edge of the road meanwhile (§2.5) — Hook: Blinded? Right edge, slow down.

90. Fog driving rule: if you cannot see well, ___? Slow down — and if it is bad enough, pull completely off the road and stop with lights/flashers (§2.5) — Hook: Fog: slow, or get fully off.

91. In winter, check that lights, reflectors, and handholds are clear of ___? Snow and ice before driving (§2.5) — Hook: Clear the snow off lights and steps.

92. Bridge decks freeze ___? Before the rest of the road — shaded and wet spots freeze first too (§2.5) — Hook: Bridges freeze first.

93. If the temperature is near freezing and the road looks wet, suspect ___? Black ice — a thin transparent ice layer (§2.5) — Hook: Wet-looking + near freezing = black ice.

94. Hot-weather driving: check tire pressure and watch for 'bleeding tar', which is ___? Tar rising to the road surface that is very slippery when hot (§2.5) — Hook: Bleeding tar = greasy road.

95. Mountain driving in summer and winter alike: watch your brakes and use ___? Lower gears to hold speed so brakes stay cool (§2.5) — Hook: Gears hold the mountain, brakes just help.

96. Drowsy driving: the only real cure for fatigue is ___? Sleep — stop and sleep, or take a nap of at least 20 minutes in a safe place (§2.5) — Hook: Only sleep cures sleepy.

97. Drivers most likely to fall asleep include those who ___? Are sleep-deprived, drive long hours, drive at night, or take sedating medicine (§2.5) — Hook: Know the sleep-risk list.

98. Stop at a railroad crossing when your vehicle is a placarded hazmat load, a bus, or a tank — stop between ___? 15 and 50 feet from the nearest rail (§2.6) — Hook: Stop 15 to 50 from the rail.

99. Never shift gears ___? While crossing railroad tracks (§2.6) — Hook: No shifting on the tracks.

100. If your vehicle stalls on the tracks, you should ___? Get out, move away at a 45-degree angle in the direction of the train's travel side — away from the tracks (§2.6) — Hook: Stuck on tracks: get out, angle away.