



# DMV CHEATS and TIPS!

## CALIFORNIA CDL AIR BRAKE CHEAT SHEET

### TIPS FOR GETTING YOUR LICENSE FAST!

### IMPORTANT LINKS

California DMV: <http://dri.vg/cOb>

DMV CDL Information: <http://dri.vg/2iD>

DMV Appointments: <http://dri.vg/9Yd>

Driver License Office Locations: <http://dri.vg/JqB>

Fees: <http://dri.vg/C1l>

### DMV REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

- Valid Driver's License
- Medical Certificate: <http://dri.vg/LdC>
- Proof of Identity Documents:  
<http://dri.vg/v9l>

### TESTS YOU WILL NEED TO TAKE

General Knowledge  
Air Brakes (if applicable)  
Pre-Trip Inspection  
Basic Skills  
CDL Road Test  
Vision Exam

### Applicable exams for desired endorsements:

- Hazardous Materials
- Tank Vehicles
- Passengers
- School Bus
- Double/Triple Trailers

Practice exam available online at:

[www.TestQuestionsAndAnswers.com](http://www.TestQuestionsAndAnswers.com)

1. Dollies manufactured on or after March 1, 1998 are required to have a yellow Antilock Braking Systems (ABS) malfunction lamp:

- On the left side.

5 – Antilock Braking Systems (ABS)

2. If dual air system warning light and buzzer should come on while driving, you should:

- Stop right away, safely park the vehicle, and have the air brakes system fixed.

5 – Dual Air Brake

3. If the air pressure fails, a heavily loaded vehicle will take a long distance to stop because the spring brakes:

- Do not work on all axles.

5 – Low Air Pressure

4. While waiting for air pressure to build up in a dual air system:

- Pay attention to the low air pressure warning light and buzzer.

5 – Dual Air Brake





# DMV CHEATS and TIPS!

## CALIFORNIA CDL AIR BRAKE CHEAT SHEET

### 5. The manual adjustment of an automatic adjuster to bring a brake pushrod stroke within legal limits is:

- Generally masking a mechanical problem and is not fixing it.

11 – Cab Check/Engine Start

### 6. Use the parking brakes:

- Whenever you park.

5 – Parking Brake Controls

### 7. On newer model vehicles, the parking brake will be a:

- Yellow, diamond-shaped knob labeled "parking brakes."

5 – Parking Brakes

### 8. To reduce the risk of ice in air brake valves and other parts during cold weather:

- Some air brake systems have an alcohol evaporator to put alcohol into the air system.

5 – Alcohol Evaporator

### 9. When the spring brakes come on, lightly loaded vehicles or vehicles on slippery roads may:

- Skid out of control.

5 – Low Air Pressure

### 10. If the air brake system has an alcohol evaporator, the tanks should be drained:

- Daily, to get rid of water and oil unless the system has automatic drain valves.

5 – Alcohol Evaporator

### 11. When only the trailer has ABS, the trailer is less likely to swing out, but if you lose steering control or start a tractor jackknife:

- Let up on the brakes (if you can safely do so) until you gain control.

5 – Braking with Antilock Brakes



# DMV CHEATS and TIPS!

## CALIFORNIA CDL AIR BRAKE CHEAT SHEET

### 12. In vehicles with Anti-lock Braking Systems (ABS), wheel lock up is avoided by:

- A computer that senses impending wheel lock-up and reducing the braking pressure to a safe level, allowing you to maintain control.

5 – Braking with Antilock Brakes

### 13. Emergency brakes and parking brakes must be held on by:

- Mechanical force (because air pressure can eventually leak away).

5 – Spring Brakes

### 14. To determine if your vehicle is equipped with Antilock Braking Systems (ABS):

- Check the certification label for the date of manufacture.

5 – Antilock Braking Systems (ABS)

### 15. If the compressor has its own oil supply:

- Check the oil level before driving.

5 – Air Compressor

### 16. Having ABS on only the tractor, only the trailer, or even on only one axle:

- Still gives you more control over the vehicle during braking.

5 – Braking with Antilock Brakes

### 17. The action of the brakes shoes and linings inside the brake drum:

- Causes friction, which slows the vehicle, and creates heat.

5 – Foundation Brakes

### 18. Releasing the brakes:

- Lets some compressed air go out of the system, so the air pressure in the tanks is reduced.

5 – The Brake Pedal



# DMV CHEATS and TIPS!

## CALIFORNIA CDL AIR BRAKE CHEAT SHEET

**19. On a long and/or steep downgrade, with the vehicle in the proper gear, use the following braking technique:**

- Apply the brakes just hard enough to feel a definite slowdown.
- When your speed has been reduced to approximately five mph below your "safe" speed, release the brakes. (this application should last for about three seconds).
- When your speed has increased to your "safe" speed, repeat steps 1 and 2.

5 – Proper Braking Technique

**20. If the vehicle has a dual air brake system, there will be a gauge:**

- For each half of the system, or;
- A single gauge with two needles.

5 – Supply Pressure Gauges

**21. Air storage tanks are used to:**

- Hold compressed air.

5 – Air Storage Tanks

**22. To use the parking brakes:**

- Pull the parking brake control knob out to apply the parking brakes, push it in to release.

5 – Parking Brakes

**23. To use a "controlled braking" maneuver:**

- Keep steering wheel movements very small.
- If you need to make a larger steering adjustment or if the wheels lock, release the brakes.
- Re-apply the brakes as soon as you can.

5 – Emergency Stops

**24. Manual adjustment of slack adjusters is dangerous because:**

- It can give the operator a false sense of security about the effectiveness of the braking system.

5 – During Step 5 Walkaround Inspection

**25. Tractor and straight truck spring brakes will come fully on when air pressure drops to a range of:**

- 20 to 45 psi (typically 20 to 30 psi).



# DMV CHEATS and TIPS!

## CALIFORNIA CDL AIR BRAKE CHEAT SHEET

5 – Spring Brakes

**26. The device that drops a mechanical arm into your view when the pressure in the system drops below 60 psi is known as a:**

- **Wig wag.**

5 – Low Air Pressure Warning

**27. The air compressor is connected to the engine through:**

- **Gears or a v-belt.**

5 – Air Compressor

**28. To test the parking brake:**

- **Stop the vehicle and put the parking brake on.**
- **Gently pull against it in a low gear to test that the parking brake will hold.**

5 – Step 7 Final Air Brake Check

**29. To test the Service Brakes:**

- **Wait for normal air pressure.**
- **Release the parking brake.**
- **Move the vehicle forward slowly (about five mph).**
- **Apply the brakes firmly using the brake pedal.**
- **Note any vehicle "pulling" to one side, unusual feel, or delayed stopping action.**

5 – Step 7 Final Air Brake Check

**30. To check that Spring Brakes come on automatically:**

- **Continue to fan off the air pressure by stepping on and off the brake pedal to reduce tank pressure.**
- **The tractor protection valve and parking brake valve should close (pop out) on a tractor-trailer combination vehicle.**
- **The parking brake valve should close (pop out) on other combination and single vehicle types.**
- **When the air pressure falls to the manufacturer's specification (20 – 45 psi). This will cause the spring brakes to come on.**

5 – Step 7 Final Air Brake Check

**31. Antilock Braking Systems (ABS) is a computerized system that:**

- **Keeps your wheels from locking up during hard brake applications.**



# DMV CHEATS and TIPS!

## CALIFORNIA CDL AIR BRAKE CHEAT SHEET

5 – Antilock Braking Systems (ABS)

**32. When you drive a tractor-trailer combination with ABS, you should brake as you always have; in other words:**

- Use only the braking force necessary to stop safely and stay in control.
- Brake the same way, regardless of whether you have ABS on the tractor, the trailer, or both.
- As you slow down, monitor your tractor and trailer and back off the brakes (if it is safe to do so) to stay in control.

5 – Braking with Antilock Brakes

**33. The amount of air pressure in the tanks is indicated by a:**

- Pressure gauge connected to the air tank.

5 – Supply Pressure Gauges

**34. The other dual air brake system operates:**

- The regular brakes on the front axle (and possibly one rear axle).

5 – Dual Air Brake

**35. Drivers behind you are warned that you are applying your brakes through use of:**

- An electric switch that works by air pressure that turns on the brake lights when you put on the air brakes.

5 – Stop Light Switch

**36. To check air brakes during Step 5 of the walk-around Inspection, check Slack Adjusters on S-cam brakes by:**

- Parking on level ground and chocking the wheels to prevent the vehicle from moving.
- Release the parking brakes so you can move the slack adjusters.
- Using gloves, pull hard on each slack adjuster that you can reach.

5 – During Step 5 Walkaround Inspection

**37. Letting up on the brake pedal:**

- Reduces the air pressure and releases the brakes.

5 – The Brake Pedal

**38. Wedge brakes and disc brakes are:**

- Less common than s-cam brakes.



# DMV CHEATS and TIPS!

## CALIFORNIA CDL AIR BRAKE CHEAT SHEET

5 – Foundation Brakes

**39. Vehicles with Antilock Braking Systems (ABS) have \_\_\_\_\_ to tell you if something isn't working.**

- **Yellow malfunction lamps**

5 – Antilock Braking Systems (ABS)

**40. There is only enough air in the separate tank to:**

- **Release the spring brakes a few times.**

5 – Parking Brake Controls

**41. An air compressor governor that does not work properly:**

- **May not keep enough air pressure for safe driving and needs to be fixed.**

5 – Step 7 Final Air Brake Check

**42. The second dual airbrake system is called the:**

- **"Secondary" system.**

5 – Dual Air Brake

**43. The wig wag type of warning system will drop a mechanical arm into your view when pressure in the system falls below:**

- **60 psi.**

5 – Low Air Pressure Warning

**44. When air pressure to the brake system is removed:**

- **The brakes are applied through spring pressure.**

5 – Spring Brakes

**45. To test the air leakage rate:**

- **Charge the air system fully (typically 125 psi),**
- **Turn off the engine**
- **Release the parking brake, and time the air pressure drop.**





# DMV CHEATS and TIPS!

## CALIFORNIA CDL AIR BRAKE CHEAT SHEET

- Apply 90 psi or more with the brake pedal.
- After the initial pressure drop, if the air pressure falls more than three psi in one minute for single vehicles (more than four psi for combination vehicles), the air loss rate is too much.

5 – Step 7 Final Air Brake Check

**46. A warning signal you can see must come on before the air pressure in the tanks falls below:**

- 60 psi. or;
- One half the compressor governor cutout pressure on older vehicles.

5 – Low Air Pressure Warning

**47. The amount of air pumped into the storage tanks is controlled by the:**

- Governor.

5 – Air Compressor Governor

**48. One of the dual parking control valves is a push-pull type and is used to:**

- Put on the spring brakes for parking.

5 – Parking Brake Controls

**49. If you always drive a straight truck or combination with working ABS on all axles:**

- You can fully apply the brakes in an emergency stop.

5 – Braking with Antilock Brakes

**50. If a slack adjuster moves more than about \_\_\_\_\_ where the push rod attaches to it, it probably needs adjustment.**

- One inch

5 – During Step 5 Walkaround Inspection

**51. Brake drums are located:**

- On each end of the vehicle's axles.

5 – Foundation Brakes

**52. Pushing the brake pedal down when the spring brakes are on:**

- Could damage the brakes by the combined forces of the springs and the air pressure.





# DMV CHEATS and TIPS!

## CALIFORNIA CDL AIR BRAKE CHEAT SHEET

5 – Parking Brake Controls

**53. Before driving a vehicle with a dual air system, allow time for the air compressor to build up a minimum of:**

- **100 psi pressure in both the primary and secondary systems.**

5 – Dual Air Brake

**54. To check Air Compressor Governor Cut-out pressures:**

- **Check the manufacturer's specifications (generally the compressor should start pumping at 100 psi and stop at 125 psi).**
- **Run the engine at fast idle.**
- **Watch the air pressure gauge.**
- **The governor should cut out at about the manufacturer's specifications and the air pressure shown by the gauge will stop rising.**

5 – Step 7 Final Air Brake Check

**55. The \_\_\_\_\_ should only be used as a temporary measure to correct the adjustment in an emergency situation as it is likely the brake will soon be back out of adjustment since this procedure usually does not fix the underlying adjustment problem.**

- **Manual adjustment of an automatic adjuster**

5 – During Step 5 Walkaround Inspection

**56. The first dual air brake system is called the:**

- **"Primary" system.**

5 – Dual Air Brake

**57. If the brakes are not adjusted properly:**

- **Neither the regular brakes nor the emergency/parking brakes will work right.**

5 – Spring Brakes

**58. A leak in the air brake system which causes all the air to be lost:**

- **Will also cause the springs to put on the brakes.**

5 – Spring Brakes

**59. Don't use the parking brakes if:**



# DMV CHEATS and TIPS!

## CALIFORNIA CDL AIR BRAKE CHEAT SHEET

- The brakes are very hot (from just having come down a steep grade), or;
- The brakes are very wet in freezing temperatures.

5 – Parking Brakes

60. The \_\_\_\_\_ pumps air into the air storage tanks (reservoirs).

- Air compressor

5 – Air Compressor

61. Brakes out of adjustment will \_\_\_\_\_ before those that are in adjustment.

- Stop doing their share

5 – Brake Fading or Failure

62. The most common type of foundation brake is the:

- S-cam drum brake.

5 – Foundation Brakes

63. A gauge that shows how much air pressure you are applying to the brakes is called an:

- Application gauge.

5 – Application Pressure Gauge

64. Water and oil in the air brake system tend to collect:

- In the bottom of the air tank.

5 – Air Tank Drains

65. Brake fade results from:

- Excessive heat causing chemical changes in the brake lining, which reduce friction, and also causing expansion of the brake drums.

5 – Brake Fading or Failure

66. All vehicles built since \_\_\_\_\_ have automatic slack adjustors.



# DMV CHEATS and TIPS!

## CALIFORNIA CDL AIR BRAKE CHEAT SHEET

- 1994

5 – During Step 5 Walkaround Inspection

### 67. In vehicles equipped with air brakes, brake lag is:

- The time required for the brakes to work after the brake pedal is pushed.

5 – Stopping Distance

### 68. Brake linings (friction material) must not be:

- Loose.
- Soaked with oil or grease.
- Dangerously thin.

5 – During Step 5 Walkaround Inspection

### 69. To use the “stab braking” maneuver:

- Apply your brakes all the way.
- Release brakes when wheels lock up.
- As soon as the wheels start rolling, apply the brakes fully again.

5 – Emergency Stops

### 70. Most heavy-duty vehicles use \_\_\_\_\_ for safety.

- Dual air brake systems

5 – Dual Air Brake

### 71. With a modulating valve lever:

- The more you move the control lever, the harder the spring brakes come on so you can control the spring brakes if the service brakes fail.

5 – Parking Brake Controls

### 72. Let hot brakes cool before:

- Using the parking brakes.



# DMV CHEATS and TIPS!

## CALIFORNIA CDL AIR BRAKE CHEAT SHEET

5 – Parking Brakes

**73. All trucks, truck tractors, and buses must be equipped with:**

- Emergency brakes and parking brakes.

5 – Spring Brakes

**74. The parts of an air brake system include:**

- Service brake system.
- Parking brake system.
- Emergency brake system.

5 - Air Brakes

**75. To prevent oil and water damage to the air brake system:**

- The driver must drain the air tanks completely.

5 – Air Tank Drains

**76. If the brakes are wet:**

- Use the brakes lightly while driving in a low gear to heat and dry them.

5 – Parking Brakes

**77. The dual air system warning light and buzzer should come on before the air pressure drops below:**

- 60 psi in either system.

5 – Dual Air Brake

**78. Any time you park:**

- Use the parking brakes (unless they are very hot).

5 – Parking Brakes

**79. Vehicles equipped with a front brake limiting valve usually have a control marked:**



# DMV CHEATS and TIPS!

## CALIFORNIA CDL AIR BRAKE CHEAT SHEET

- "Normal" and "Slippery."

5 – Front Brake Limiting Valve

### 80. Increased application pressure to hold the same speed could be caused by:

- Brakes out of adjustment.
- Air leaks.
- Mechanical problems.

5 – Application Pressure Gauge

### 81. If the pressure in the air brake system gets too low:

- The brakes won't work.

5 – The Brake Pedal

### 82. Even though automatic slack adjustors \_\_\_\_\_, they must be checked.

- Adjust themselves during full brake applications

5 – During Step 5 Walkaround Inspection

### 83. If your vehicle is equipped with a front brake limiting valve:

- Make sure the control is in the "normal" position to have normal stopping power, even in icy conditions.

5 – Front Brake Limiting Valve

### 84. If your vehicle does not have automatic air tank drains:

- Drain your air tanks at the end of each working day to remove moisture and oil; otherwise, the brakes could fail.

5 – Parking Brakes

### 85. When brakes equipped with automatic adjusters are found to be out of adjustment:

- Take the vehicle to a repair facility as soon as possible to have the problem corrected.

5 – During Step 5 Walkaround Inspection

### 86. Each dual air brake system has:



# DMV CHEATS and TIPS!

## CALIFORNIA CDL AIR BRAKE CHEAT SHEET

- Its own air tanks, hoses, lines, etc.

5 – Dual Air Brake

### 87. There are two types of air tank drain valves:

- Manually operated.
- Automatic.

5 – Air Tank Drains

### 88. On older model vehicles, the parking brake may be a:

- Round blue knob or some other shape (including a lever that swings from side to side or up and down).

5 – Parking Brakes

### 89. Antilock Braking Systems (ABS) do not necessarily:

- Shorten your stopping distance but it does help you keep the vehicle under control during hard braking.

5 – Antilock Braking Systems (ABS)

### 90. Pushing the pedal down harder:

- Applies more air pressure to the brakes.

5 – The Brake Pedal

### 91. Parking brakes allow the driver to:

- Let the air out of spring brakes allowing the spring to hold the brakes.

5 – Spring Brakes

### 92. Pressing and releasing the pedal unnecessarily can:

- Let air out faster than the compressor can replace it.

5 – The Brake Pedal

### 93. Tests have shown front wheel skids from braking are:



# DMV CHEATS and TIPS!

## CALIFORNIA CDL AIR BRAKE CHEAT SHEET

- **Not likely, even on ice.**

5 – Front Brake Limiting Valve

### 94. In cold weather the air brake alcohol evaporator must be checked and refilled:

- **Every day.**

5 – Alcohol Evaporator

### 95. On older vehicles, the parking brakes may be controlled by:

- **A lever.**

5 – Parking Brake Controls

### 96. Both dual air brake systems supply air to:

- **The trailer (if there is one).**

5 – Dual Air Brake

### 97. The air brake lag distance at 55 mph on dry pavement adds about:

- **32 feet.**

5 – Stopping Distance

### 98. Water in the air brake system can:

- **Freeze in cold weather and cause brake failure.**

5 – Air Tank Drains

### 99. Each air tank is equipped with a drain valve:

- **In the bottom of the tank.**

5 – Air Tank Drains