Sharing the Road

Driving Safely Around Big Trucks
1. Trucks have large blind spots on the:
   a. driver side
   b. passenger side
   c. front
   d. rear
   e. all of the above

2. If you can’t see the truck’s mirrors, can the truck driver see you?
   a. yes
   b. no

3. When merging onto the freeway, trucks may not be able to move over, so:
   a. match the flow of traffic
   b. pick your spot and go
   c. both of the above

4. When changing lanes in front of a truck, make sure you:
   a. can see the headlights and the truck’s front tires in the rearview mirror
   b. are more than a mile from your exit
   c. can maintain your speed until you reach the exit ramp
   d. a and c
   e. all of the above

5. Trucks take much longer than cars to come to a complete stop.
   a. true
   b. false

6. At intersections, you should stay behind white stopping lines because it allows:
   a. you to see all the traffic lights/signs
   b. trucks and other large vehicles to safely complete their turns
   c. you to be a courteous driver
   d. b and c
   e. all of the above

7. You should never try to fit into an opening between the truck and the right-hand curb because:
   a. trucks make wide right turns
   b. you might get “squeezed” between the two, which would be bad news
   c. both of the above

8. Which would be bad things to do around big trucks?
   a. hanging out in a truck’s blind spots
   b. cutting in front of a truck to make your exit
   c. expecting trucks to stop quickly
   d. all of the above
As a new driver, do you know the safest ways to share the road with big trucks?

But these professional drivers stay on a track, while professional truck drivers are out every day sharing the roadways with other traffic.

These are both professional drivers.
Trucks have large blind spots on the:
- driver side
- passenger side
- front
- rear

Remember if you can’t see the truck’s mirrors, the driver can’t see you. That means bad things can happen, so don’t hang out in a truck’s blind spots.
When merging onto the freeway, trucks may not be able to move over, so:

- match the flow of traffic
- pick your spot
- and go

Pass trucks when you:

- can see the headlights and the trucks front tires in the rearview mirror
- are more than a mile from your exit
- can maintain your speed until you reach the exit ramp
Trucks take much longer than cars to come to a complete stop

How long it takes a truck to stop depends on:
- how fast it’s going
- how much weight it’s carrying

NOTE: It can take the length of a football field for an empty truck to come to a complete stop.

Where the truck stopped at 55 mph

Where the car stopped at 55 mph

Trucks need more stopping time
White stopping lines are there for a reason. If you stop past the line, trucks and other large vehicles won’t be able to complete their turns without hitting you. Stay behind white stopping lines at intersections.
Stay behind white stopping lines

When you see a truck parked like this at the intersection with its turn signal on:

- know that the truck is going to make a wide right turn
- don’t try to pass on the right hand side

Otherwise you might get “squeezed” between the truck and the curb.

So stay behind trucks making wide right turns.
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   - rear

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Answers: 1. e; 2. b; 3. c; 4. e; 5. a; 6. d; 7. c; 8. d