

# THE DRIVERS 1ST DOT ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST PREP GUIDE

## MASTERING THE ROADSIDE ASSESSMENT & CONVERSATIONAL INTERVIEW (2026)

STAY ON THE ROAD. PROTECT YOUR RECORD. KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO EXPECT.

### The Conversational Interview

During a roadside stop, the officer is conducting a verbal **DOT English Proficiency Test** to ensure you can understand instructions and provide safety information.

Practice answering these common roadside questions:

- Trip Origin** "Where did your trip begin and where is it ending?"
- Credentials** "Can I see your license and medical certificate?"
- Cargo Details** "What type of cargo are you hauling?"
- Logbook Compliance** "How many hours have you been on duty?"



### Readiness Tips

- Speak clearly and calmly.**
- Apps are banned:** Do not rely on translation apps - they are not allowed during the assessment.
- Use full sentences:** Answer in full sentences if possible, even if they are short.

### Readiness Tips

- Practice reading highway signs aloud during your route.
- If you are unsure of a specific word, describe the meaning using simple English or gestures.

### Road Sign Reading & Identification

You must be able to read and explain traffic signs to pass the English proficiency requirements. Be prepared to identify:

**Speed and Weight** Speed Limit and Weight Limits.

**Parking** No Parking / No Idling.

**Safety** Bridge Height Clearance.

**Navigation** Bridge Height Clearance.



### The “Drivers 1st” Protocol

#### WHAT TO DO

Keep your medical card, license, and logbook organized and accessible.

#### WHAT NOT TO DO

**Don't** use Google Translate or phone a friend for help.

Ensure you can read and explain your own documents in English.

**Don't** hand the officer a "language card" instead of responding verbally.

Ask your carrier for a mock inspection or language assessment.

**Don't** panic—stay respectful and do your best to communicate.

### Carrier Compliance Note

Use this **DOT English Proficiency Test** checklist to train drivers pre-hire or during orientation. To protect the fleet, add proof of language readiness to each driver qualification file.