See Yourself in the Drivers Seat

Card Sort Learning Activity, Grades 4-5
Instructions and Cards
The Project SHIFT Card Sort card deck contains [40] cards divided into five categories:

• Delivery trucks  (red, 7 cards)
• Tractor trailers (green, 8 cards)
• Typical truck cargo (blue, 9 cards)
• Sources and destinations of materials transported by trucks (purple, 7 cards)
• Trucking slang  (orange, 9 cards)

To play the Project SHIFT Card Sort game:

1. Shuffle the deck and have each student select one card.

2. Have students mill around the room and find others whose card fits the same Category. (You may announce the categories beforehand or let students discover Them on their own.)

3. Instruct students with cards in the same category (Delivery Trucks, Tractor Trailers, Typical Truck Cargo, Sources and Destinations or Trucking Slang) to announce their category and to read aloud their cards to the rest of the class. Note: categories can also be identified by color.

4. As each category is presented, provide additional background information.

5. After completing the activity, gather and shuffle the cards, and play the game again.

This activity was adapted from *Active Learning: 101 Strategies to Teach Any Subject*, Mel Silberman, Temple University, Allyn and Bacon, Simon & Schuster, 1996, pg. 103. Permission pending.
Category: Delivery Trucks

Dump Truck

Dump trucks carry sand, earth, and gravel. The truck’s bed tips up and the back door swings open to dump the load.

Category: Delivery Trucks

Grocery Truck

A grocery truck, often a tractor-trailer like this one, brings food from a warehouse to the grocery store. Just about everything we buy in stores is transported by trucks.

Category: Delivery Trucks

School Bus

Do you ride on a school bus? How many passengers can your bus carry? Besides school buses, public buses and tour buses deliver people.

Category: Delivery Trucks

Fire Engine

Make way! Fire engines deliver fire fighters, rescue and emergency workers, and their equipment to the scene. Other fire trucks carry long ladders to help rescue people from burning buildings.

Category: Delivery Trucks

Package Truck

If you’ve ever waited for a package to be delivered, you know that it may come in a truck like this. Also called a step van, a package truck allows the driver easy access in and out.

Category: Delivery Trucks

Garbage Truck

Crash! Bang! It’s usually easy to tell when it’s garbage day! This kind of garbage truck, called a front-end loader, has big hooks to lift trash dumpsters and empty them into the body of the truck.
Cement Truck

Cement trucks deliver a mixture of cement, sand, gravel, and water—called concrete—to construction sites. Water from a small tank streams into the large rotating drum, where everything gets mixed. At the job site, concrete flows out of the drum and down a chute to where it is needed.
Category: Tractor-Trailer Trucks
Belly Dump Truck
A belly dump truck has doors that open up underneath the trailer. The material in the trailer, such as sand or gravel, flows out in a straight row as the truck driver slowly moves forward.

Category: Tractor-Trailer Trucks
Tanker Truck
Also called an “oil can” or “milk can,” this truck has a trailer designed to hold liquids such as oil, milk, and even orange juice! Some tankers have more than one section inside to carry different liquids.

Category: Tractor-Trailer Trucks
Flatbed Truck
A flatbed trailer does not have sides, so whatever kind of load it carries must be tied down. Thick chains keep big loads from rolling off the flatbed.

Category: Tractor-Trailer Trucks
Refrigerated Van Truck
The long box-shaped trailer on this truck is cold inside because it has an air conditioner. A refrigerated van, or “reefer,” transports food that needs to be refrigerated or frozen—dry foods such as rice, cereal, and cookies, and nonfood products such as toys, computers, and furniture.

Category: Tractor-Trailer Trucks
Livestock Hauler
Trucks called livestock haulers carry cows, pigs, chickens and other animals. The design of a livestock hauler and the equipment it contains help control the flow of air inside the trailer, creating a safer, healthier environment for the animals on board.

Category: Tractor-Trailer Trucks
Dry Van Truck
The long box-shaped trailer on this kind of truck typically carries products that do not need to be refrigerated or frozen—dry foods such as rice, cereal, and cookies, and nonfood products such as toys, computers, and furniture.
Category: Tractor-Trailer Trucks
Log Truck

The trailer carrying these logs has no floor, but holds the logs in place with u-shaped beams at the front and back. Heavy chains hold the logs in place.

Category: Tractor-Trailer Trucks
Car Hauler

Like all tractor trailers, a car hauler has a tractor, the front part of the truck that has the engine, and a trailer, the back part that hooks onto the tractor. The trailer on a car hauler can carry as many as eight cars.
**Category: Typical Truck Cargo**

**Grain**

The bread we eat begins right here in a field of wheat. Grain, like this wheat, is gathered and loaded into trucks called grain haulers. The trucks deliver the grain to a mill, where it is ground into flour. From there, the flour goes to bakeries, where it is used to make bread.

**Lumber**

Besides lumber, flatbed trucks may also carry steel, wrapped pallets, oversized objects, and containers called bladders.

**Gasoline**

Tanker trucks carry gasoline and oil from factories called refineries, where fuels are made. Other tankers carry liquids we drink, such as, milk, soda, and orange juice.

**Fresh and Frozen Foods**

“Reefers,” or refrigerated van trucks, transport our favorite fresh and frozen foods to grocery stores. These foods often make the journey packed in containers, crates, and boxes.

**Manufactured Products**

A truckload of TVs or tuna may be headed your way! Van trucks transport everyday items that do not need refrigeration.

**Logs**

Logs might shift and roll during transport, so it takes a special truck, called a log hauler, to keep them in place. Logs end up at lumber mills, where they are cut into boards.
Category: Typical Truck Cargo

Livestock

Trucks called livestock haulers carry cows, pigs, chickens and other animals. The design of a livestock hauler and the equipment it contains help control the flow of air inside the trailer, creating a healthy environment for the animals on board.

Category: Typical Truck Cargo

Cars

Before new cars hit the road themselves, they get a ride from the factory to car dealerships on a truck called a car hauler.

Category: Typical Truck Cargo

Oversize Loads

Trucks carry all kinds of objects that don’t fit neatly into boxes or containers. Boats, cars, construction equipment, even small houses can be transported by big trucks.
Category: Sources and Destinations

Homes, Schools, Workplaces

Trucks bring many things directly to our homes, schools, and workplaces. Take a look at the many objects you use daily—your toys, the TV, the furniture, your sports equipment. Nearly everything we own, use, or consume at home, school, or work traveled by truck.

Category: Sources and Destinations

Landfills, Recycling Centers

What doesn’t go to a landfill as trash may go to a transfer station or recycling center for reuse. Whatever the final destination, most of the things we get rid of travel by truck.

Category: Sources and Destinations

Farms and Ranches

Farms and ranches are the beginning of the line for the foods we eat. A variety of special trucks carry the foods to factories for processing or directly to markets where we can buy it.

Category: Sources and Destinations

Logging Camps

Natural resources like logs, sand, and gravel come from the environment around us. Trucks designed to carry these kinds of materials transport them to factories and job sites.

Category: Sources and Destinations

Factories and Warehouses

Factories and warehouses are just one stop along the journey for the products and materials we use. Trucks travel to and from these busy places around the clock.

Category: Sources and Destinations

Mills

Mills are factories that use raw materials to make something new. Lumber (or saw) mills turn logs into many kinds of wood products. Paper mills turn wood into paper products.
Flatbed, dry van, and refrigerated van trucks are just some of the trucks that deliver manufactured products and foods to stores and restaurants.
"Double Nickel"

"Double nickel" refers to the 55 miles-per-hour speed limit. Other speed-related slang includes “hammer lane”—the left passing lane; “hammer down”—step on the accelerator; [other terms TK].

"Roller Skates"

Truck drivers have all kinds of nicknames for other vehicles on the road. Truckers refer to all cars as “four wheelers.” Especially small cars are “roller skates.”

"Bumper Sticker"

The term “bumper sticker” or “hitchhiker” might refer to you if the car you’re riding in is following too close behind a truck. To avoid being in a truck driver’s blind spot—a place that the driver cannot see from the driver’s seat—cars should follow at a distance of 20-25 car lengths.

"Salt Shaker"

When snowflakes fly, the “salt shakers”—or snow plows—move out to clear the roads. Other nicknames for trucks include:
- bobtail—tractor without a trailer
- thermos bottle—tanker trailer
- stagecoach—tour bus
- sand box—gravel trailer

"Skateboard"

Truck drivers use the nickname “skateboard” for a flatbed trailer. Flatbeds do not have sides, so they can carry large objects that are wider than the truck. Heavy chains keep big loads from rolling off the flatbed.

"Alligator"

There’s an alligator in the road! But if you’re a truck driver, you’ll be on the lookout for rubber, not reptiles. “Alligator” refers to the tread from a blown tire, which creates a hazard on the road.
**Category: Truck Driver Slang**

**“Covered Wagon”**

A trailer with sides but no top may be covered with a large tarp to keep the cargo—such as sand—from blowing around. Truck drivers call this kind of trailer a “covered wagon.”

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**“Toothpicks”**

“Toothpicks” is the nickname for logs or lumber. The trailer carrying these logs has no floor, but holds the logs in place with u-shaped beams at the front and back. Heavy chains keep the logs from shifting.

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**Category: Truck Driver Slang**

**“Comic Book”**

Truck drivers don’t really read comic books on the road, do they? The term “comic book” refers to the U. S. Department of Transportation log book that truck drivers are required by law to carry. A log book contains important information about the truck and its load.