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Trucks are the most common means of road transports which are used to carry huge loads to different locations. The modern day trucks are quite different from those that were used earlier. Trucks are generally huge, heavy vehicles that are used to transport cargo. There are different kinds of trucks based on the size, power and configuration. The smallest is mechanically similar to an automobile. However, there are commercial trucks that are very large in size. Since they have to carry huge loads they are powerful as well. These are meant to carry specialized equipments; they configurations are also different from the normal ones. Some of the examples of these commercial trucks are fire trucks, concrete mixers and suction excavators. The modern trucks consist of gasoline and diesel engines. Out of these the diesel engines are quite common and are mostly found everywhere.

As we see different kinds of trucks in our day to day life, it is always interesting to know about the origins of trucks. The word Truck was originally formed from the word "truckle" which meant a small wheel pulley. A few people in the Middle East called it trokell and trochea in Latin. However, in few parts of the world they refer to truck as lorry. This word lorry has more an uncertain origin and was pulled from the railroad industry. All these were generally designed to pull goods from one place to the other.

If we look into the engines of most trucks, we will find that trucks also use the same kinds of transmissions that we find in most cars today. They have either automatic or manual transmissions with synchronizers. If we have a look at the big trucks, most of them use manual transmissions without any synchronizers, saving bulk and weight. However, there are large trucks which use synchronizers as well. For trucks which use transmissions without synchronizers, they are known as crash boxes, and these would require double clutching for each shift. This kind of technique used can be colloquially known as floating, which are used to changing gears without using the clutch, except for start and stops. These are due to the physical effort of double clutching, especially with non power assisted clutches, faster shifts, and less clutch wear.

However, double clutching is easier for the driver to control the engine and the shifts are also smooth while changing a gear. Double shifts are used especially while up shifting the gear, once before the gear is brought to neutral and again before the lever is pushed to the next higher gear. This helps the engine to gain a higher speed. The down shifting is also done in a similar fashion to ensure the non-collision gear change. While we have learnt some of the transmissions techniques while changing a gear, here are few tips to drive a truck if you have not drive a truck till date.

Most of us are aware that driving a truck is not that easy as driving a car. However, driving an empty truck gives a different feel from driving a loaded truck. While driving an empty truck is easy, on the other hand while driving a loaded truck we need to be extremely careful. While driving a loaded truck one need to be quick on the brakes. While you can take short turns in your car, it is required to take wider turns while driving a truck as the body is much longer. Unlike cars you will not accelerate fast on a truck and pull into faster lanes. You would need to maintain your acceleration, especially while climbing down hills; your truck tends to move faster. We need to ensure that the mirrors are properly adjusted and the load you carry is secured

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