



RAW POWER

American trucks are unique vehicles that are admired world wide for their versatility, ruggedness, power, and looks. Trucks are configured specifically for the job with a wide range of options which include engine, wheelbase, transmission, cab configuration, axles etc. This can lead to a single vehicle model with up to 1000 variants of the basic design.

Engine sizes tend to range from 250 horse-power to a massive 600 horse-power. Cabs are either classed as 'conventional' with the traditional long-nosed look or the flat fronted 'cabover' design. Transmissions may be manual with 13-15 speed boxes or automatic which are slightly less economical. Fuel tanks may have a capacity of 200 gallons making them ideal for the long-haul, inter-state journeys.

Citizens' Band radio (CB) has been available since the 1950's but became much more popular in the mid 70's as a means of truckers organising to beat the fuel crisis and evade the 55mph speed limit. A whole new language grew out of CB usage:

- Advertising**
- Bubble Trouble**
- Bucket-mouth**
- Come Back**
- Mobile Parking Lot**
- Plain Wrapper**
- Ratchet Jaw**

- police car with lights turned on
- tyre problem
- driver who swears
- please reply
- car transporter
- unmarked police car
- non-stop talker

