



## RAILROAD VOCABULARY

- ❖ Automatic air brake – A braking system which draws air from the atmosphere and stores it under pressure. A reduction in brake pipe pressure, regardless of how it is made, automatically applies the brakes
- ❖ Big hole – Emergency position of the air brake valve
- ❖ Box car – An enclosed car for goods which must be protected from the weather
- ❖ Branch line – A line serving one or more stations beyond the point of junction with the main line or another branch line
- ❖ Bulk freight – Freight not in packages or containers
- ❖ Cab – The space in the locomotive that contains the operating controls and provides shelter and seats for the engine crew
- ❖ Car float – A large flat-bottomed boat equipped with tracks on which railroad cars are moved on inland waterways
- ❖ Circuitous route – An extremely indirect route
- ❖ Conductor – The train service employee of the train crew
- ❖ Container car – A flat or open top car on which containers are loaded
- ❖ Coupler – A device for connecting cars or locomotives together
- ❖ Diesel – Internal combustion engine or locomotive
- ❖ Engine – A unit propelled by any form of energy or a combination of such units operated from a single control used in train service
- ❖ Freight bill – A statement given to a customer for charges of transportation
- ❖ Home car – A car on the tracks of its owner
- ❖ Main line – The part of a railroad that has no switches, branches, yards, or terminals
- ❖ Siding – An extra track along the main line that permits other trains to pass
- ❖ Switch – A connection between lines of track that permits rail cars or trains to pass from one track to another track
- ❖ Terminal – Facilities provided by a railroad for the handling of passengers or freight or for the breaking up or reforming of a train of rails cars
- ❖ Train – One or more engines couple with or without cars