

Hybrid Car

A **hybrid** car is a car that can be powered by gasoline or electricity or both at the same time.

The idea of hybrid **vehicles** is not new. In the mid 1600s, a Jesuit **priest** worked on plans for a carriage that could either be pulled by a horse or run by steam.

More recently, an American named Piper **invented** a system in 1905 in which an electric motor could be used to increase the power of a gasoline engine. About the same time, hybrid vehicles were developed, built, and used **commercially** in England, France, Belgium, and Germany.

In North America, hybrid vehicles were built by automotive **firms** in Chicago and Ontario from 1914 into the 1940s, but they could not reach very high speeds. Most **consumers** chose gasoline-powered cars because they were faster and gas was cheap and **plentiful**.

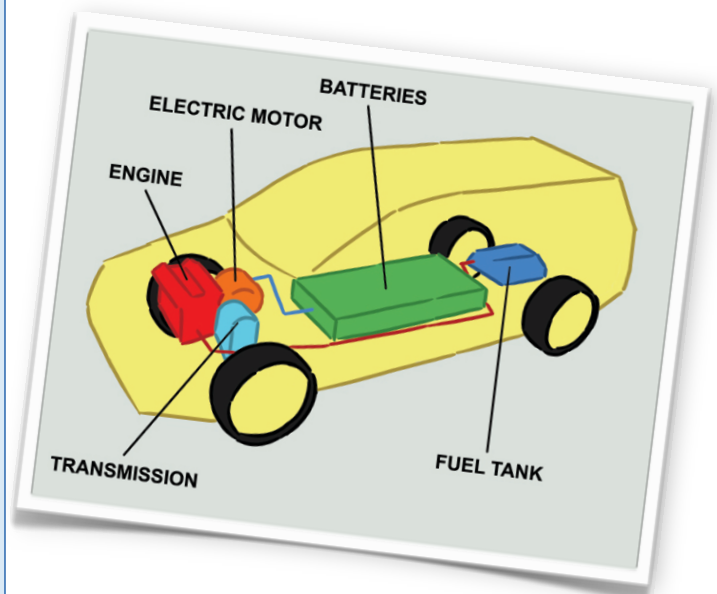
Hybrid cars are more environmentally friendly and more fuel efficient, however. By the late 1990s, North Americans were more interested in buying hybrids because **pollution** was getting worse and gas prices were increasing due to problems with fuel supplies.

In 1997, Toyota introduced and sold 18,000 Prius hybrid cars in Japan. This made the Prius the world's first successful mass-produced hybrid vehicle. It was sold in North America in 2000. It could go about 52 miles on a gallon of gas, its battery did not have to be plugged in, and it had room for 5 people. Over 110,000 of these Prius hybrids were sold in over 20 countries. In 2004, Toyota introduced a more powerful and **roomier version** of the Prius.

Other automotive manufacturers, including Honda, Lexus, Ford, and Chevrolet, now sell hybrid cars and sport utility vehicles. Although hybrids cost more than gas-powered vehicles, they are expected to become less expensive as technology **improves** and **demand** for them grows.

Pre-Reading Warm Up Questions ☀

1. What is a hybrid car?
2. Do you or anyone you know own a hybrid car?
3. How much is the cost of a gallon/liter of gasoline in the city where you live?
4. Do you know who made the first mass-produced hybrid vehicle in the world? Do you know the name of this car?
5. Besides saving money on gasoline, what is another reason people are interested in hybrid cars?



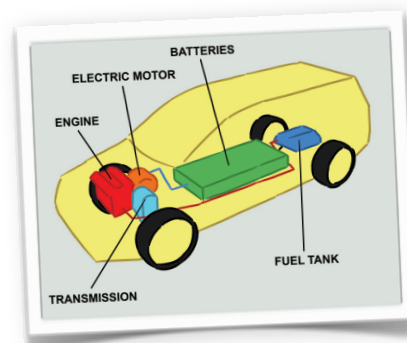
COMPREHENSION ✍

A. True or False. Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence. If it is false, write F. If it is false, correct the information.

1. The idea of hybrid vehicles is almost 400 years old.
2. Hybrid vehicles were built in Europe before North America.
3. One of the advantages of the early hybrids was the fast speed they could reach.
4. The increase in pollution increased the interest in hybrids.
5. Hybrids are more expensive to run but cheaper to buy than gasoline powered vehicles.

B. Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in complete sentences.

1. What is a hybrid car?
2. Describe a 17th century version of a hybrid vehicle.
3. What role did an American man named Piper play in the development of hybrid vehicles?
4. What was the problem with the early hybrids built in North America?
5. Why did hybrid cars become more popular in the 1990's?
6. Describe the first Prius car that was sold in North America.
7. What is one disadvantage of the hybrids and how may this change in the future?



VOCABULARY REVIEW

A. Match the words on the left with the correct meaning on the right.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. hybrid | a) make better |
| _____ 2. vehicle | b) dirt, contamination, waste, smog |
| _____ 3. priest | c) person who uses things |
| _____ 4. invent | d) bigger; having more space |
| _____ 5. commercially | e) something made from a mix of two things |
| _____ 6. firm | f) form; kind; type |
| _____ 7. consumer | g) church leader |
| _____ 8. plentiful | h) company |
| _____ 9. pollution | i) related to business |
| _____ 10. roomier | j) something used to move people or things |
| _____ 11. version | k) asking for something |
| _____ 12. improve | l) create, make something new |
| _____ 13. demand | m) existing in large amounts |

DISCUSS

1. What is an SUV? Do you or anyone you know own an SUV? Is it a hybrid SUV? What are the advantages and disadvantages of owning an SUV?
2. How dependent are you on the use of an automobile? Do you have environmental concerns about your reliance on the automobile? What are some things you can do personally to reduce automobile pollution?
3. What can governments do to decrease pollution from automobiles? In your groups, try to brainstorm as many ideas as possible and share your ideas with the rest of the class.
4. Would you consider buying a hybrid car? Why or why not?

B. Choose the correct word from the left column above to complete the following sentences.

1. Our apartment is very small. We're going to move to a _____ place.
2. In some large cities, people sometimes wear face masks when the _____ is very bad.
3. He works for a large manufacturing _____ with over 1000 employees.
4. This movie is a remake of an old French movie. I liked the French _____ better than the new American one.
5. Many of the fruits that are so _____ in the summer are hard to get in the winter.
6. You cannot park your _____ on this street overnight.
7. If you practice speaking English every day, your English will _____ quickly.

C. Find the following words or expressions in the reading and explain the meanings.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. fuel efficient _____ | 2. mass-produced _____ |
| 3. plugged-in _____ | 4. environmentally friendly _____ |

ANSWER KEY

Please note: The reading for this topic is also available in full-page format at the end of the lesson (page 4).

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1-5. individual answers

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

A. True or False

1. T 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. F

B. Written answers

1. A hybrid car is a car that can be powered by gasoline or electricity or both at the same time.
2. A carriage that could either be pulled by a horse or run by steam.
3. He invented a system in 1905 in which an electric motor could be used to increase the power of a gasoline engine.
4. Early hybrids could not reach very high speeds.
5. Because pollution was getting worse and gas prices were increasing due to problems with fuel supplies.
6. It could go about 52 miles on a gallon of gas, its battery did not have to be plugged in, and it had room for 5 people.
7. Hybrids cost more than gas-powered vehicles, they are expected to become less expensive as technology improves and demand for them grows.

VOCABULARY REVIEW

A. Matching

1. e 2. j 3. g 4. l 5. i 6. h 7. c 8. m 9. b 10. d 11. f 12. a 13. k

B. Choose the correct word

1. roomier 2. pollution 3. firm 4. version 5. plentiful 6. vehicle 7. improve

C. Find expressions in the reading

1-4. individual answers

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