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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 25/02/14

## Would you buy an electric or hybrid car?

Would you buy an electric or hybrid car? Well, would you? Every month car manufacturers are introducing new models; some of which are hybrid cars; others are 100% plug in electric cars.

A hybrid engine combines an electric motor with a petrol engine. This saves you fuel while still getting ample power. If the petrol engine isn't running they are also quiet. You thus save money by not having to buy so much petrol. When the engine is running they charge themselves.

Owners of electric cars simply plug them in at home, at the office, at the supermarket or service station and get on with their lives. The car is petrol free; thus the money saved on fuel is huge! The practical range of an electric car is less than that of a petrol or diesel car.

The challenge for governments, car manufacturers and electric companies in each country now is to develop and build a network of fast charging stations as quickly as they can.

Simply having one charger in each town is not going to help the majority of electric car users. There will need to be literally thousands of charging points. Otherwise we will see a lot more road rage. Can you imagine queuing for hours simply to charge up and get home?

Popular hybrid cars in the UK include the Toyota Yaris, the Toyota Prius, Peugeot's 3008, the Honda Insight and the Vauxhall Ampera. Best selling electric cars in the UK include; the Nissan LEAF and the Renault Twizy. In the spring of 2014 the Honda Jazz hybrid will be released, as will Ford's Mondeo hybrid. VW's e-Golf is also coming, as is the all electric Tesla Model S.

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about electric or hybrid cars. Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) Name three hybrid cars.
- 2) Name three electric cars.
- 3) Name three car manufacturers.
- 4) What is 'road rage'?
- 5) What is a hybrid engine?

#### Student B questions

- 1) What is coming in the spring of 2014?
- 2) What is 'a charging station'?
- 3) What is the challenge for whom?
- 4) What will there need to be lots of?
- 5) What does 'ample power' mean?

**Category: Technology / Electric Cars / Hybrid Cars  
Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## Would you buy an electric car? - 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Electric cars**'. *One-two minutes.* Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* - From the article choose three things about hybrid cars. Write them below. Talk about them.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three things about electric cars. Discuss together. What are your conclusions?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

*The teacher* will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

### WRITING / SPEAKING / DRAWING

*In pairs* - Draw the inside and out of an electric or hybrid car! Label everything! Talk about your car. *5 mins.*

*The teacher* will choose some students to read out their results to the class then discuss the findings.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What are the popular hybrid cars in your country?
- 3) What are the popular electric cars in your country?
- 4) What car do you drive? Why?
- 5) Would you want to be queuing to charge your car up for hours?
- 6) Why are electric companies slow in their installation of fast electric charging points?
- 7) Why has it taken till now for electric cars to hit the road in a commercial way?
- 8) What is your government doing to promote electric and hybrid cars?
- 9) Will we see petrol like station charging centres appearing shortly across the country?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is Jeremy Clarkson, the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in the BBC Top Gear TV studio. Today's interview is: *Electric and hybrid cars. 10 mins.*

- 1) An electric car owner.
- 2) A hybrid car owner.
- 3) A car manufacturer representative.
- 4) An electric company spokesperson.

*The teacher* will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs.* *Student A* is a car buyer. *Student B* is car seller. *Student A* wants to buy either a hybrid or an electric car. Together choose your make and model! *5 mins.*

### SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Electric and hybrid cars - Are they the future?</i></p>
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*The teacher* can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Would you prefer to own a hybrid or an electric car?
- 3) Do you think we will see the rapid development of electric cars?
- 4) Do you know anyone with an electric car?
- 5) What advantages do electric cars have?
- 6) Will you save road tax if you buy an electric car in your country?
- 7) How much money per month would you save in petrol costs by having an electric car?
- 8) Who pays for the electric at the charging points?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**Would you buy an electric or hybrid car?**

Would you buy an electric or hybrid car? Well, would you? Every month car manufacturers are introducing new models; some of which are hybrid cars; others are 100% (1)\_\_\_ electric cars.

A (2)\_\_\_ engine combines an electric motor with a petrol engine. This saves you fuel while still getting ample power. If the petrol engine isn't running they are also (3)\_\_\_. You thus save money by not having to buy so much petrol. When the engine is running they (4)\_\_\_ themselves.

Owners of (5)\_\_\_ cars simply plug them in at home, at the office, at the supermarket or service station and get on with their lives. The car is petrol (6)\_\_\_; thus the money saved on (7)\_\_\_ is huge! The practical (8)\_\_\_ of an electric car is less than that of a petrol or diesel car.

**fuel / electric / hybrid / quiet / plug in / free / charge / range**

The challenge for governments, car (1)\_\_\_ and electric companies in each country now is to (2)\_\_\_ and build a network of fast charging stations as quickly as they can.

Simply having one charger in each town is not going to help the (3)\_\_\_ of electric (8)\_\_\_ users. There will need to be (4)\_\_\_ thousands of charging points. Otherwise we will see a lot more (5)\_\_\_. Can you (6)\_\_\_ queuing for hours simply to charge up and get home?

(7)\_\_\_ hybrid cars in the UK include the Toyota Yaris, the Toyota Prius, Peugeot's 3008, the Honda Insight and the Vauxhall Ampera. Best selling electric cars in the UK include; the Nissan LEAF and the Renault Twizy.

In the spring of 2014 the Honda Jazz hybrid will be released, as will Ford's Mondeo hybrid. VW's e-Golf is also coming, as is the all electric Tesla Model S.

**popular / literally / develop / manufacturers / car / majority / imagine / road rage**

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**Would you buy an electric or hybrid car?**

(1)\_\_\_ you buy an electric or hybrid car? Well, would you? Every month car manufacturers are introducing new models; (3)\_\_\_ of which are hybrid cars; others are 100% plug in electric cars.

A hybrid engine combines an electric motor (3)\_\_\_ a petrol engine. This saves you fuel while still getting ample power. If the petrol engine isn't running (4)\_\_\_ are also quiet. You thus save money by not having to buy so much petrol. (5)\_\_\_ the engine is running they charge themselves.

Owners of electric cars simply plug (6)\_\_\_ in at home, at the office, at the supermarket or service station and get on with (7)\_\_\_ lives. The car is petrol free; (8)\_\_\_ the money saved on fuel is huge! The practical range of an electric car is less than that of a petrol or diesel car.

**some / thus / they / would / when / them / with / their**

The challenge for governments, car manufacturers (1)\_\_\_ electric companies in each country now is to develop and build a network of fast charging stations (2)\_\_\_ quickly as they can.

Simply having one charger in each town is not going to help the majority of electric car users. There will need to be literally thousands (3)\_\_\_ charging points. Otherwise (4)\_\_\_ will see a lot more road rage. Can you imagine queuing for hours simply to charge up and get home?

Popular hybrid cars (5)\_\_\_ the UK include the Toyota Yaris, the Toyota Prius, Peugeot's 3008, the Honda Insight and the Vauxhall Ampera. Best selling electric cars in the UK include; the Nissan LEAF and the Renault Twizy.

In the spring of 2014 (6)\_\_\_ Honda Jazz hybrid will be released, as will Ford's Mondeo hybrid. VW's e-Golf is also coming, as is the all electric Tesla Model S.

**/ in / of / as / / we / and / the**

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### Would you buy an electric or hybrid car?

Would you buy an electric or hybrid car? Well, would you? Every month \_\_\_\_\_ are introducing new models; some of which are hybrid cars; others are 100% \_\_\_\_\_.

A hybrid engine combines an electric motor with a petrol engine. This saves you fuel while still getting ample power. If the petrol engine isn't running they are also quiet. You thus save money by not having \_\_\_\_\_. When the engine is running they charge themselves.

Owners of electric cars simply plug them in at home, at the office, at the supermarket \_\_\_\_\_ and get on with their lives. The car is petrol free; thus the money saved on fuel is huge! The practical range of an electric car is less than that of a \_\_\_\_\_ petrol or diesel car.

The challenge for governments, car manufacturers and electric companies in each country now is to develop and build a network of \_\_\_\_\_ as quickly as they can.

Simply having one charger in each town is not going to help the majority of electric car users. There will need to be \_\_\_\_\_ of charging points. Otherwise we will see a lot more road rage. Can you imagine queuing for hours simply to charge up and get home? It is coming...

\_\_\_\_\_ in the UK include the Toyota Yaris, the Toyota Prius, Peugeot's 3008, the Honda Insight and the Vauxhall Ampera. Best selling electric cars in the UK include; \_\_\_\_\_ and the Renault Twizy.

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## WRITING/SPELLING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - In pairs, as a class - write down 20 things you know about **electric and hybrid cars**. Talk about them! 5 mins.

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Electric cars \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Hybrid cars \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Petrol \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Electric and hybrid cars in my country**. Your email can be read out in class.

### GAP FILL READING

- 1) plug in
- 2) hybrid
- 3) quiet
- 4) charge
- 5) electric
- 6) free
- 7) fuel
- 8) journey

### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) ample
- 2) hybrid
- 3) manufacturers
- 4) motor
- 5) fuel
- 6) challenge
- 7) develop
- 8) simply
- 9) charger
- 10) majority

### ANSWERS

- 1) manufacturers
- 2) develop
- 3) majority
- 4) literally
- 5) road rage
- 6) imagine
- 7) popular
- 8) car

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) popular
- 12) leader
- 13) other
- 14) road rage
- 15) might
- 16) just
- 17) would
- 18) which
- 19) thus
- 20) much

Would you buy an electric car? - *25<sup>th</sup> February 2014*