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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 25/03/14

A brief history of electric cars

Thomas Parker is said to have invented the first electric car. It went onto the streets of London in 1884. Parker was responsible for innovations such as electrifying the London Underground.

A decade later Walter C. Bersey designed a fleet of electric London taxis. These started operating on London's streets in 1897. They were soon nicknamed 'the hummingbirds' because of the humming noise they made.

Recently, we saw the discovery of an electrically-powered car that had lain virtually untouched since 1902 in an old garage in Austria. Officially known as the 'Egger-Lohner electric vehicle C.2 Phaeton model'. The 'P1', as it became known, was designed and built by a young 22-year-old called Ferdinand Porsche.

Mr Porsche had been hired by a Ludwig Lohner, who was the head of a carriage manufacturing company who believed the future was in electric or gas powered vehicles. The 'P1' debuted onto the streets of Vienna in 1898. Its battery carried it a distance of 49 miles at up to 21 miles per hour (34km/hr).

Roll forward to World War II and in France during 1942 there was a severe lack of petrol. Frenchman Paul Arzens came up with the electric 'egg car' ('L'Oeuf Electrique'), as it was egg shaped! His first model was powered by a bank of five 12 volt batteries that drove an electric motor on a single rear wheel.

Three decades later in 1973 the Enfield 8000 was introduced into the UK. This 2-seater battery-electric city car was made by Enfield Automotives in the Isle of Wight. Altogether 120 Enfields were built. Most were used by various electricity boards around the UK.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about old electric 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 the French car.
- 2) Who invented the first electric car?
- 3) What was recently discovered?
- 4) What happened in 1973?
- 5) How many of the 1973 cars were built?

Student B questions

- 1) Who was Ludwig Lohner?
- 2) Who did Mr Lohner hire?
- 3) Name the cities.
- 4) What happened in 1897?
- 5) What did Mr Lohner believe?

Category: Technology / Electric cars / History
Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

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

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Choose three of the cars from the article. Write them below. Google their photos. Talk about them.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three other makes and models of old electric cars that are in your country. Google them. 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

In pairs/as a class - On the board write down five other electric cars old or new that you know of. Talk about them. 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) Would you like to own an old electric car?
- 3) Would you like to own a new electric car?
- 4) Would you prefer to own a hybrid car?
- 5) Why has it taken so long for electric cars to be developed further than they have been?
- 6) Are the oil companies to blame for curtailing electric car development?
- 7) Should governments now actively encourage electric car development?
- 8) Have you ever driven or been in an electric car?
- 9) Have you ever seen an old electric car?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in the ABC TV studio in New York. Today's interview is: A brief history of electric cars. 10 mins.

- 1) A person who has an old petrol car.
- 2) A person who has an old electric car.
- 3) "The Classic Car" magazine journalist.
- 4) A classic car collector.

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

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. Student A is a classic car collector. Student B is trying to sell an old electric car to student A. (Google some ideas or Imagine!) 5 mins.

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

The advantages and disadvantages of electric cars

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Which is your favourite electric car?
- 3) Which is your favourite old electric car?
- 4) Why were so few electric cars built in the past?
- 5) Can you name any electric car that was built in your country?
- 6) What is the most unusual electric car you have seen?
- 7) Why do you think only 120 Enfields were built?
- 8) Which of the cars in the article would you like to drive most?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

A brief history of electric cars

Thomas Parker is said to have invented the first electric car. It went onto the streets of London in 1884. Parker was responsible for (1)___ such as electrifying the London Underground.

A (2)___ later Walter C. Bersey designed a (3)___ of electric London (4)___ . These started operating on London's streets in 1897. They were soon nicknamed 'the hummingbirds' because of the humming noise they made.

Recently, we saw the discovery of an electrically-powered car that had lain (5)___ untouched since 1902 in an old (6)___ in Austria. Officially known as the 'Egger-Lohner electric (7)___ C.2 Phaeton (8)___'. The 'P1', as it became known, was designed and built by a young 22-year-old called Ferdinand Porsche.

garage / taxis / innovations / virtually / model / decade / vehicle / fleet

Mr Porsche had been hired by a Ludwig Lohner, who was the head of a (1)___ manufacturing company who believed the (2)___ was in electric or gas powered vehicles. The 'P1' debuted onto the streets of Vienna in 1898. Its battery carried it a (3)___ of 49 miles at up to 21 miles per hour (34km/hr).

Roll (4)___ to World War II and in France during 1942 there was a (5)___ lack of petrol. Frenchman Paul Arzens came up with the electric 'egg car' ('L'Oeuf Electrique'), as it was egg shaped! His first model was powered by a bank of five 12 volt (6)___ that drove an electric motor on a single rear wheel.

Three decades (7)___ in 1973 the Enfield 8000 was introduced into the UK. This 2-seater battery-electric city car was made by Enfield Automotives in the Isle of Wight. Altogether 120 Enfields were built. Most were used by (8)___ electricity boards around the UK.

batteries / various / carriage / forward / later / distance / future / severe

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

A brief history of electric cars

Thomas Parker is said to have invented the first electric car. It went (1)___ the streets of London in 1884. Parker was responsible (2)___ innovations (3)___ electrifying the London Underground.

A decade later Walter C. Bersey designed a fleet of electric London taxis. (4)___ started operating on London's streets in 1897. (5)___ were soon nicknamed 'the hummingbirds' (6)___ of the humming noise they made.

Recently, we saw the discovery of an electrically-powered car (7)___ had lain virtually untouched (8)___ 1902 in an old garage in Austria. Officially known as the 'Egger-Lohner electric vehicle C.2 Phaeton model'. The 'P1', as it became known, was designed and built by a young 22-year-old called Ferdinand Porsche.

that / they / since / because / onto / such as / these / for

Mr Porsche had been hired by a Ludwig Lohner, who was the head of a carriage manufacturing company who believed the future was in electric (1)___ gas powered vehicles. The 'P1' debuted onto the streets (2)___ Vienna in 1898. Its battery carried (3)___ a distance of 49 miles (4)___ up to 21 miles per hour (34km/hr).

Roll forward to World War II and in France during 1942 there was a severe lack of petrol. Frenchman Paul Arzens came up with the electric 'egg car' ('L'Oeuf Electrique'), as it was egg shaped! His first model was powered by a bank of five 12 volt batteries that drove (5)___ electric motor (6)___ a single rear wheel.

Three decades later (7)___ 1973 the Enfield 8000 was introduced into the UK. This 2-seater battery-electric city car was made by Enfield Automotives in the Isle of Wight. Altogether 120 Enfields were built. Most were used (8)___ various electricity boards around the UK.

it / on / in / or / of / by / at / an /

GAP FILL: LISTENING

A brief history of electric cars

Thomas Parker is said _____ first electric car. It went onto the streets of London in 1884. Parker was responsible for innovations such as electrifying the _____.

A decade later Walter C. Bersey designed a fleet of electric London taxis. These started operating on London's streets in 1897. They were soon nicknamed '_____' because of the humming noise they made.

Recently, we saw the discovery of an electrically-powered car that had lain _____ since 1902 in an old garage in Austria. Officially known as the 'Egger-Lohner electric vehicle C.2 Phaeton model'. The 'P1', as it became known, was designed and built by a young 22-year-old called _____.

Mr Porsche had been hired by a Ludwig Lohner, who was the head of a _____ company who believed the future was in electric or _____. The 'P1' debuted onto the streets of Vienna in 1898. Its battery carried it a distance of 49 miles at up to 21 miles per hour (34km/hr). _____ World War II and in France during 1942 there was a severe lack of petrol. Frenchman Paul Arzens came up with the electric 'egg car' ('L'Oeuf Electrique'), as it was egg shaped! His first model was powered by a bank of five 12 volt batteries that drove an electric motor on _____.

Three decades later in 1973 the Enfield 8000 was introduced into the UK. This 2-seater battery-electric city car was made by Enfield Automotives in the Isle of Wight. Altogether 120 Enfields were built. Most were used by various _____ around the UK.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

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

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

- 1) My favourite electric car _____
- 2) Old electric cars _____
- 3) Electric cars _____

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

GAP FILL READING

- 1) innovations
- 2) decade
- 3) fleet
- 4) taxis
- 5) virtually
- 6) garage
- 7) vehicle
- 8) model

SPELLING

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

- 1) innovations
- 2) responsible
- 3) such as
- 4) virtually
- 5) discovery
- 6) electrically
- 7) vehicle
- 8) carriage
- 9) future
- 10) battery

ANSWERS

- 1) carriage
- 2) future
- 3) distance
- 4) forward
- 5) severe
- 6) batteries
- 7) later
- 8) various

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) distance
- 12) severe
- 13) version
- 14) volt
- 15) altogether
- 16) various
- 17) electricity
- 18) electrifying
- 19) hummingbirds
- 20) noise

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