ELECTRIC CARS AROUND THE GLOBE

Words

Look for the following words as you read the passage. Match each word with its correct definition.

Words	Definitions
1. accelerate	A. v., to accept something enthusiastically
2. appeal	B. n., a person who travels regularly between home and work
3. charge	C. adj., related to the area just outside a city
4. classify	D. n., elegant style
5. commuter	E. n., the amount of power a battery can store
6. consume	F. v., to make things difficult, get in the way
7. embrace	G. adj., related to the city
8. flair	H. n., reason to do something, reward
9. fume	I. n., the normal or common thing
10. hamper	J. v., to cross
11. incentive	K. v., to divide into groups by type
12. markedly	L. adv., noticeably
13. monetary	M. adj., related to money
14. plodding	N. v., to gain speed
15. rural	O. adj., related to the countryside
16. span	P. n., harmful gas or smoke in the air
17. sprawl	Q. v., to be of interest
18. standard	R. v., to use
19. suburban	S. n., an area of spreading growth
20. urban	T. adj., slow

Reading

Electric Cars Around the Globe

Cars have reshaped our world since they first rolled off mass-production lines in the early twentieth century. One- and two-thousand-year-old Roman roads have been replaced by highways. Longer and wider bridges span rivers. The sharp division between urban and rural landscapes has been replaced by suburban sprawl, town and country linked by eight-lane expressways with stop-and-go traffic. Gas[1] stations are everywhere. Countries with oil reserves are enormously rich and powerful. After a century, the romance with internal combustion engines is on the wane. As the price of oil rises, the reserves of irreplaceable oil are consumed, and exhaust fumes hamper life in urban areas, alternatives to gas-powered vehicles are becoming more attractive.

In the early twentieth century in North America, electric cars shared the roads with gas-fueled cars, but after a short time, gas-fueled cars became the standard. Although electric cars were quieter, cleaner, and easier to start, they were not able to travel the required distances, and their plodding speed failed to capture the imagination.

Lately, in Europe and in Asia, where commuting distances are shorter and gas is more expensive than in the United States, electric cars have grown in popularity. Electric recharging stations are appearing in cities. The government of China has offered monetary incentives to car manufacturers for each electric car they manufacture as well as to the people who purchase the electric cars. Taxi drivers in Tokyo have embraced electric vehicles. Major car manufacturers, including Mitsubishi, Nissan, Toyota, and Mercedes Benz, all offer electric cars everywhere but in North America.

In North America, slow, short-ranged electric vehicles with a high initial cost have thus far appealed to a limited audience. An American electric car that appeared briefly in the 1990s had a cruising speed of twenty-five miles per hour and could travel eighty-five miles on a single charge. Since then, battery technology has improved markedly. More recently, a North American company introduced an electric sports car that can travel 300 miles on a single charge and accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in 3.7 seconds, similar to the best sports car. The hope is that North Americans will embrace the new technology when they see an electric car as appealing as a conventional sports car.

Other American auto manufacturers are marketing electric cars as they do in Europe, as commuter cars. The design of many of these cars is innovative: Some are made of light composites and seat only two

[1]BrE: Petrol

people. One is a three-wheeler that is classified as a motorcycle. Another electric car, the Tango, is five inches narrower than a large motorcycle and seats two, one behind the other. Four of these vehicles fit in a single parking space. The vehicle is marketed as a great way to drive between lanes of stopped traffic.

All electric cars will help to reduce exhaust and greenhouse gases; some will do it with greater flair than others.

Answer the questions about **Electric Cars Around the Globe.**

Questions 1–7

Complete the summary using words from the list below.

Cars have had enormous effects on the way our world looks. The landscape is now covered with highways and big bridges. New **1**..... neighborhoods have developed between the cities and the rural areas. Cars are also causing serious problems. Oil is expensive, and we have already **2**..... a lot of oil that cannot be replaced. Gas-powered cars also pollute the air with their **3**..... . In the early days, both electric and gas-powered cars were common, but people felt that electric cars did not have the flair that gas-powered cars had. For example, electric cars traveled at a more **4**..... speed. Gas-powered cars became more popular, and now they are the **5**..... . However, there is a renewed interest in electric cars, and they have been **6**..... by people in many countries around the world. Manufacturers are developing electric cars to sell to **7**..... in both Europe and North America, because these cars are a good way to get to work.

accelerated	embraced	incentives	suburban
commuters	fumes	plodding	urban
consumed	hampered	standard	

My Words

Write the words that are new to you. Look them up in the dictionary and write their definitions.

Words	Definitions