

## Hybrid or Electric?

These days, many people want to "go green." They know that burning gasoline causes pollution. Because of this, they are giving serious consideration to buying an electric or hybrid car.

Here is how electric cars work. Electric cars have large, powerful batteries that send electricity to an electric motor. The motor turns the wheels. When the batteries run low on energy, they must be plugged in to recharge.

There are two types of hybrid cars. Both use gasoline and electricity in order to work. One type relies mostly on electric power. For this type, an electric motor turns the wheels, and a gasoline engine generates electricity. This car must be plugged in to receive a full recharge.

The second type of hybrid car gets its power mostly from a small gasoline engine. An electric motor serves as a backup. Electricity runs the car when it is moving slowly. The electric motor also helps the car build up speed. This car recharges itself while it is running. When the driver brakes, that energy is captured and stored in the battery.

Neither the electric nor the hybrid car is a new invention. In fact, the electric car has been around since the 1880s. Today, the cost of gas continues to rise, and more people are concerned about pollution, as well. That's why more electric and hybrid car models are offered for sale every year.

### Advantages of an Electric Car

An electric car costs little to recharge and produces almost no pollution. This type of car is often called a "neighborhood car" because it cannot travel very far without needing to be charged. Older models only run about 40 miles (64 kilometers) on a charge. Newer cars can run for up to 200 miles (322 kilometers) on a single charge.

Electric cars can be recharged using any electrical outlet. Drivers can even run an extension cord from their house to their car! However, charging a car this way can take up to 24 hours. Charging stations have been built in some cities, and recharging is much faster at one of these stations.

Electric cars run very quietly. They also cost less to maintain because they have fewer parts. That makes the car more dependable. However, batteries have to be replaced every 10-15 years. These batteries are very expensive. Some cost as much as \$10,000!

### Advantages of Hybrid Cars

Hybrid cars can refuel at any gas station. If the batteries cannot be recharged, hybrids can run on gas for as long as necessary. However, their gas-powered engines require upkeep. Also, the batteries wear out in time.

Electric and hybrid cars have one similarity. Right now, both cost more than gas-powered cars. However, that cost will come down as more carmakers enter the market.

When choosing one of these cars, drivers must consider which type will work best for them and their budget. If drivers need a car for short trips, an electric car is perfect. If drivers travel far from home and won't be able to charge a car, a hybrid would be the right choice.



Electric charging stations like this one "refuel" both electric and hybrid cars.

- 1 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A:** Read the paragraphs from the article.

There are two types of hybrid cars. Both use gasoline and electricity in order to work. One type relies mostly on electric power. For this type, an electric motor turns the wheels, and a gasoline engine generates electricity. This car must be plugged in to receive a full recharge.

The second type of hybrid car gets its power mostly from a small gasoline engine. An electric motor serves as a backup. Electricity runs the car when it is moving slowly. The electric motor also helps the car build up speed. This car recharges itself while it is running. When the driver brakes, that energy is captured and stored in the battery.

How are the paragraphs organized?

- (A) by sequencing the development of hybrid cars
- (B) by showing the effect hybrid cars have on travel
- (C) by discussing the problems gas-powered cars cause
- (D) by comparing and contrasting electric and hybrid cars

**Part B:** Which sentence best supports your answer in part A?

- (A) "Both use gasoline and electricity in order to work."
- (B) "This car must be plugged in to receive a full recharge."
- (C) "An electric motor serves as a backup."
- (D) "The electric motor also helps the car build up speed."

- 2 The author explains that electric cars have advantages. Choose three details about electric cars that support the author's point.

- (A) They are sold every year.
- (B) They cost little to recharge.
- (C) They are very quiet to drive.
- (D) Their batteries do not last long.
- (E) Their batteries need to be charged.
- (F) They produce almost no pollution.

- 3 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A:** Read the sentence from the article.

That makes the car more dependable.

The suffix *-able* means "capable of." What does it mean if something is dependable?

- (A) You can trust it.
- (B) You should sell it.
- (C) You easily forget it.
- (D) You will likely avoid it.

**Part B:** Which other word includes the suffix *-able*?

- (A) cable
- (B) fable
- (C) payable
- (D) table

- 4 Read the sentence from the article.

Electric and hybrid cars have one similarity.

The suffix *-ity* means "state or quality of being." If two things have a similarity, what are they?

- (A) exactly the same
- (B) alike in some way
- (C) not anything alike
- (D) different in some way

- 5 The author makes the point that drivers must think of their needs when choosing between an electric car and a hybrid car. Underline two sentences that the author includes in the article to support this point.

Hybrid cars can refuel at any gas station. If the batteries cannot be recharged, hybrids can run on gas for as long as necessary. However, their gas-powered engines require upkeep. Also, the batteries wear out in time.

Electric and hybrid cars have one similarity. Right now, both cost more than gas-powered cars. However, that cost will come down as more carmakers enter the market.

When choosing one of these cars, drivers must consider which type will work best for them and their budget. If drivers need a car for short trips, an electric car is perfect. If drivers travel far from home and won't be able to charge a car, a hybrid would be the right choice.