



ENGLISH

Reading practice

Function: to put into practice reading strategies

Level: A2+

Time: 20 min

Student's Name: _____

I.BEFORE READING: Predicting: Read the title and look closely at the picture. Then, make a list of characteristics or features you think this car may have.

A CAR WITHOUT A DRIVER



Toyota has **released** a video of its new driverless car prototype. The real car will be on show at an electronics show in Las Vegas, USA at the end of this year. This new innovative transport solution is fully equipped with especially "intelligent" safety **features** to make sure it does not crash. It uses radars and video cameras to understand where other cars are and where the road's edges are located to avoid minor collisions. It can also "see" people and slow down to avoid hitting them in time. The car will be able to also **communicate** with other cars that are equipped with the same technology. A Toyota spokesperson said: "We're looking at a car that would attempt to **eliminate** crashes. Zero-collisions is our **ultimate** aim." He added that the car should be used with a driver, due to safety regulations and mobility laws, but that it is **simply** a formality. This would be useful if the driver wants to use his or her laptop, or falls asleep. Toyota is not the first car maker to **showcase** self-driving cars to the public. In May 2012, the Swedish company Volvo tested a self-drive **convoy** of cars on a Spanish highway. All of the models presented had attractive designs, and they could be differentiated from each other because of the different features each of them offers. The search engine Google has also invested a lot of money in the technology for these cars. The German auto **manufacturers** Audi and Mercedes are also developing similar cars. The chairman of the Ford Motor Company, Bill Ford Jr., said these cars will reduce traffic jams in the future. He said the cars linked to google maps will receive information from computers that **monitor** traffic and then the cars will take a different route around any congestion. Toyota's video says: "Lexus advanced active safety research **vehicle** is leading the industry into a new automated era."

AFTER READING

II. Identifying the main idea and important details: Complete the following chart using the information in the text.

Type of text	
Main idea	
Details about the car	
Detailed benefits of the car	
Background information	

III. Understanding Details: Mark the following statements True or False based on the reading

a. Toyota showed a video of a car that needs no driver in a car show. T / F

b. No one will be able to see the car until 2015. T / F

c. The car has technology that means it can communicate with to any other car. T / F

d. Toyota's will cut the number of car crashes by 50 per cent. T / F

e. Toyota's prototype is the pioneer of many cars that do not need a driver. T / F

f. The boss of the car company Ford said the cars could reduce traffic jams. T / F

g. The new driverless cars will add to traffic blocks problems on the roads. T / F

h. Toyota believes its new car is the leader in safety vehicles. T / F

IV. Guessing Meaning form Context: Find a word in the text that is a synonym for each of the words bellow.

1. Make contact: _____
2. Highlight: _____
3. keep an eye on: _____
4. Launched, came out with: _____
5. Group: _____
6. put an end to: _____
7. purpose-built: _____
8. Automobile: _____
9. Basic: _____
10. Producer: _____

V. Making inferences: Read the following statements carefully and put a check (✓) if you consider they are correct or a cross (X) if you think they are not. Explain why.

- It is safe to say that the makers of this car know it will eliminate accidents on the road
- It is safe to say that the car can spin around perfectly with no driver and no problems.
- It can be inferred that the public can choose a car based on their preferences.
- It can be inferred that a these cars will have screens inside

