ELECTRIC CARS AROUND THE GLOBE

Words

Write the letter of each definition with the word it defines. If you don't know the definition, use the context of the reading passage to help you. Look for the words in bold as you read the passage.

PARAGRAPH 1

Words	Definitions
1 ..... span	**A** adj., related to the countryside
2 ..... urban	**B** n., an area of spreading growth
3 ..... rural	**C** adj., related to the area just outside of a city
4 ..... suburban	**D** v., to cross
5 ..... sprawl	**E** adj., related to the city

PARAGRAPHS 1–2

Words	Definitions
6 ..... consume	**F** v., to use
7 ..... fume	**G** v., to make things difficult; get in the way
8 ..... hamper	**H** adj., slow
9 ..... standard	**I** n., harmful gas or smoke in the air
10 ..... plodding	**J** n., the normal or common thing

PARAGRAPHS 3–4

Words	Definitions
11 ..... monetary	**K** v., to be of interest
12 ..... incentive	**L** n., the amount of power a battery can store
13 ..... embrace	**M** v., to accept something enthusiastically
14 ..... appeal	**N** n., reason to do something; reward
15 ..... charge	**O** adj., related to money

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PARAGRAPHS 4–6

Words	Definitions
16 ..... markedly	**P** v., to gain speed
17 ..... accelerate	**Q** v., to divide into groups by type
18 ..... commuter	**R** n., a person who travels regularly between home and work
19 ..... classify	**S** n., elegant style
20 ..... flair	**T** adv., noticeably

Reading

Electric Cars Around the Globe

(1) 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 One- and two-thousand-year-old Roman roads have been replaced by highways.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 The sharp division between **urban** and **rural** landscapes has been replaced by **suburban sprawl**, town and country linked by eight-lane expressways with stop-and-go traffic.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. After a century, our love of gas-powered automobiles is diminishing. 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

[1]BrE: Petrol

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(4) 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.

(5) 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 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.

(6) 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.

accelerated	embraced	incentives	suburban
commuters	fumes	plodding	urban
consumed	hampered	standard	

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

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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.

Word Families

A

Complete each sentence with the correct word from the word family chart. Make nouns plural where necessary. Use the correct form of verbs.

noun	verb	adjective
appeal	appeal	appealing

1 A car that uses less gasoline would ..... to commuters.

2 Electric cars are ..... to many people.

3 The ..... of an electric car is that it doesn't cause pollution.

noun	noun	verb
class	classification	classify

4 The new ..... of electric cars is very different from the electric cars of the early twentieth century.

5 If you ..... your car as a commercial vehicle, you will need to get a special license[1].

6 The ..... of a car as a sports car can make it more appealing to certain people.

[1]BrE: licence

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noun	noun	verb
commuter	commute	commute

7 ..... are worried about the increase of traffic on the highways.

8 I have a thirty-minute ..... to work every day.

9 Many people ..... from the suburbs to their jobs in the city.

noun	noun	verb
consumer	consumption	consume

10 Electric cars are attractive because they don't ..... gasoline.

11 As the price of oil increases, ... may go down.

12 ..... of gasoline are paying higher prices everyday.

noun	verb	adjective	adverb
mark	mark	marked	markedly

13 The popularity of electric cars has grown ..... over the past few years.

14 In the past, before cars became common, the difference between urban and rural areas was more ..... .

15 The twenty-first century ..... a new interest in electric cars.

16 The new hybrid vehicles have made their ..... with consumers.

noun	adjective	adverb
money	monetary	monetarily

17 More people will be interested in buying electric cars for ..... reasons as gasoline becomes more expensive.

18 While owning an electric car has certain advantages, it is not necessarily the best choice for the average person, ... speaking.

19 Many people own cars even though they cost a great deal of ..... .

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Word Families

B

Choose the correct word family member from the list below to complete each blank.

1	class	classification	classify
2	commuters	commutes	commute
3	consumer	consume	consumption
4	appeal	appeals	appealing
5	monetarily	monetary	money
6	marked	markedly	mark

Car manufacturers are developing a **1**..... of electric car especially for **2**..... . These cars are quite small and may have room for only one or two people. They are not intended for carrying large loads or many passengers. Their main purpose is to get the driver to and from work. Because of their small size, they **3**..... little energy. They are **4**..... because they cost much less **5**..... than larger cars to run. In fact, there is a **6**..... difference in fuel costs between these new small cars and the larger cars that we are used to seeing.

Paraphrases

Read the sentence from the reading passage. Then, choose the sentence that has the same meaning.

1 *In the early twentieth century in North America, electric cars shared the roads with gas-fueled cars, but in a short time, the gas-fueled cars became the standard.* (paragraph 2)

A People preferred gas-fueled to electric cars because they could go faster and farther.

B As roads improved, traveling in gas-fueled cars became more comfortable.

C At first, people drove both electric and gas-fueled cars, but gas-fueled cars soon became more common.

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2 *In North America, slow, short-ranged electric vehicles with a high initial cost have thus far appealed to a limited audience.* (paragraph 4)

A Electric vehicles have interested few North Americans because of their limitations.

B North American interest in electric vehicles has not lasted for very long.

C Electric vehicles are slowly beginning to appear on North American roads.

Dictionary Skill

DIFFERENT MEANINGS

Many words have more than one meaning.

Read the definitions below. Then read the sentences and write the letter of the correct definition for each sentence.

QUESTIONS 1–2

ap-peal [a-PEEL]

A *verb.* to be of interest

B *verb.* to ask a court of law to hear a case again

..... **1** The driver didn't agree that he was guilty of speeding and planned to *appeal* to the court to change the decision.

..... **2** A car that is inexpensive to buy and easy to maintain would *appeal* to many people.

QUESTIONS 3–4

charge [CHARJ]

A *noun.* the amount of power a battery can store

B *noun.* the price of a service or purchase

..... **3** The *charge* for car repairs is often quite high.

..... **4** This car can travel about 100 miles on one battery *charge.*

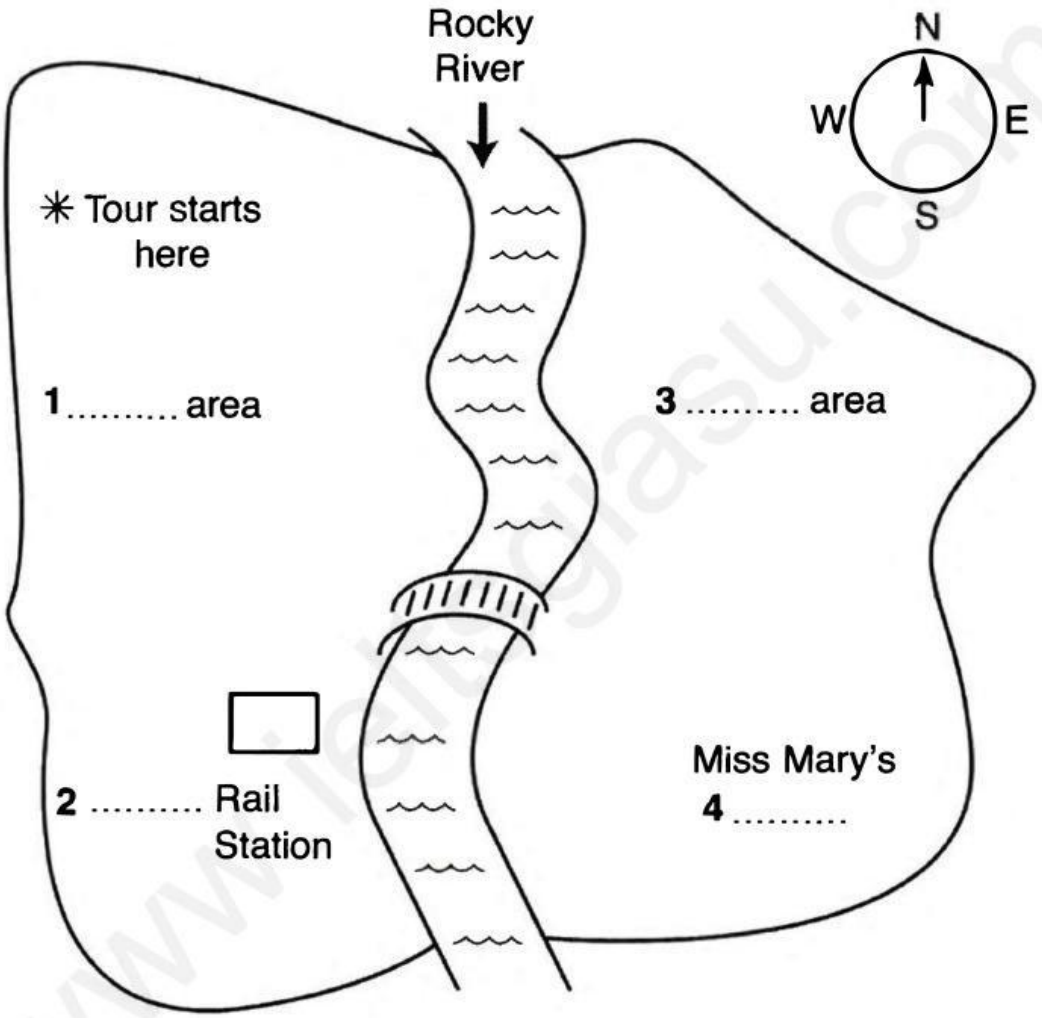
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Listening

Track 9

Listen to the talk. Look at the map labeled ***1–4****. Complete the labels.*



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Writing (Task 2)

In your opinion, what incentives could be offered that would persuade more people to embrace electric cars?

Support your answer with reasons and examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Speaking

Talk about the following topics.

What kind of car is appealing to you? Why?

Do you prefer to live in a rural, suburban, or urban area? Why?

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