

Talking About Cars: Intro and Vocabulary

Your Task:

Take a piece of paper and two minutes to answer **one** of the following three questions:

1. Describe your car in English. Do you like your car? Why? What *don't* you like about your car?
2. If you don't have a car, describe a car you'd like to have. What are the most important things to you in a car? What *don't* you want to have?
3. If you don't have a car, and you don't want a car. . . tell us why you don't want a car. What transportation do you think is better? Why? How do you travel most of the time?

Is It Easy?

How well were you able to answer the questions above? Could you say in English everything you would have said in your native language? What was missing?

This week we're going to help you work on your car vocabulary. And there is a *lot* of car vocabulary. But, you know how to learn vocabulary: use it! Look at this week as an opportunity to start describing your car. Whether you do it on paper, in your computer, or here at Bite Sized English, it doesn't matter. The trick is to use the vocabulary as you're learning it.

This week we'll follow a slightly different format: we're going to be learning more vocabulary than usual. So, today we'll learn some new words—very general vocabulary—and then tomorrow we'll learn vocabulary for some of the parts of a car. And then we'll move into car problems on Wednesday and I'll tell you about my first car on Thursday.

Today, though, it's just some general words you might need when talking about cars. How many of these words can you use to talk about your car? How important are these things to you? Are there any words that you think should be in the list?

Vocabulary

Reliable: I like old cars. Especially old American cars from the sixties and seventies. But, there's a problem with cars that old: you can't be 100% sure that the car will work when you want it to. The car's aren't reliable. A reliable car is a car that starts every time you try to start it. . . and doesn't stop until you turn it off or it runs out of gas. I think that, more than anything else, my car should be reliable.

Fuel-Efficient: Gas—or 'gasoline'—is getting more expensive everywhere. If you don't want to pay a lot of money for gas, or 'fuel,' there are only two things you can do: drive less, or get a car

that can drive very far with very little fuel. ('Fuel' is what your car uses for energy.) A car that doesn't need a lot of gas to go far is 'fuel efficient.' Or, the car has good fuel efficiency. American cars are famous for not being fuel efficient.

Family Car: Most men would like to drive a Porsche or Lamborghini. But, if you have to bring your wife, four kids and the family dog with you, a Porsche isn't the right car to drive. Instead, you might want something more practical. What you need is a family car. A family car can be a minivan or a station wagon. . . normally the important things are that a family car is safe, has a lot of seats for the kids, and room for all the stuff that a family has to carry around.