



LISTENING:

Listen to the recording once.

What words or ideas did you hear?

What is the listening about in general?

Read phrases 1-6 out loud.

Listen to the recording again and decide if they are true or false, according to the listening exercise.

1. Electric cars were first invented in 1880.
2. Some electric cars can now travel for over 4,000 kilometres without needing recharging.
3. A heavy battery in a car can improve the speed of the vehicle.
4. The batteries can be a fire risk.
5. Some electric cars have artificial noises to warn pedestrians that they are approaching.
6. The price of an electric car is similar to that of a conventional vehicle.

Now read the text and listen at the same time.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of electric vehicles?

GAP FILL:

**Use 1 word from the listening text to fill the gaps in these sentences:
(In the Trinity reading exam you will need 1-3 words)**

1. The idea of electric cars was in the 1880s because there were safer alternatives.
(Hint: verb "to be" normally goes with an adjective, gerund or the passive voice)
2. Electric cars can't travel very far without
(Hint: prepositions normally go with a noun, object pronoun or gerund)
 1. Electric cars are slower than normal cars because they have a battery.
 2. Most like the smooth acceleration and quiet motors in electric cars.
 3. If prices in the future, perhaps more people will buy electric cars.

WRITING:

Write an essay for a course at university discussing the positive and negative aspects of electric cars. Say whether you would recommend this type of car to car buyers in your country.



Why don't we all have electric cars? There seem to be so many advantages, that it almost seems surprising that we aren't all driving around in clean green vehicles.

The first electric cars were first invented in 1880, but petrol and diesel cars were more advanced and safer, and so the idea was abandoned.

After the year 2000, people started thinking again about the idea of electric cars. Conventional fuels were contributing to the greenhouse effect and we realised that the supplies of fossil fuels were not limitless.

Some major difficulties did have to be overcome: firstly the batteries of electric vehicles needed to be recharged quite frequently. However, the manufacturer Tesla has produced cars which can travel for nearly 400 kilometres without needing recharging.

The second big problem was the weight and size of the car battery. Batteries in electric cars are still quite heavy, and this means that the car will be slower. A heavier car, is however, a more stable car. This increased stability might even prevent accidents, although you won't be able to travel as quickly.

Another, lesser known problem, with the batteries of electric cars is that they can cause explosions or fires if they break - therefore if you have an accident in an electric car you should get out of the vehicle immediately.

Electric cars are famous for their smooth acceleration and quiet motors, and most drivers see these as positive attributes, however, it has been claimed that quiet electric cars could be a hazard to pedestrians. You can't really hear electric cars when they are moving at less than 50 kilometres per hour and so for the safety of cyclists, children and the hearing impaired, some companies have added artificial sounds to their cars.

The final consideration, and for many the deciding factor, is price. Currently electric vehicles are considerably more expensive than those using conventional fuels. This said, with the recent commercial success of some electric car companies, it's very likely that prices will fall and that this form of transport will become more accessible for us all.