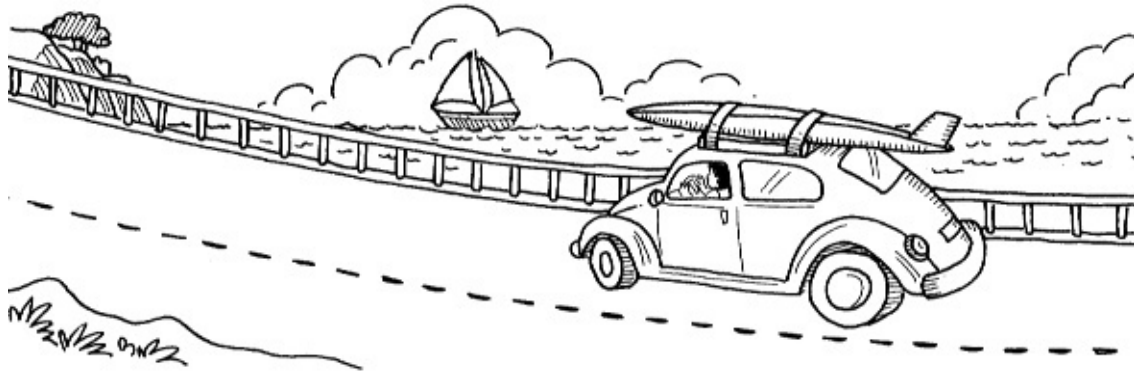


Read the text “Smart Cars for Clean Air” before answering Numbers 1 through 5.



## Smart Cars for Clean Air

Cars take us to school, work, and anywhere else we want to go. We rely on cars to get us to a wide variety of places . . . and fast! There is no doubt that the automobile has made our lives easier in a number of ways. But there is also no doubt that cars are slowly killing our planet. It is clearly time to rethink how we use cars in our daily lives.

While cars have given us the convenience of easy travel, the pollution they cause is a serious consequence. The Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, says that gas-powered vehicles such as cars, trucks, and bulldozers are the main cause of air pollution in large cities in the United States. In fact, they cause air pollution throughout the entire world. Environmentalists have talked about the dangerous effects of air pollution for decades. One way to stop this pollution is to buy hybrids. These are cars that run on both gasoline and electricity.

Vehicles are responsible for air pollution because they run on a fossil fuel. When this fuel is burned in the process of running a car, pollutants are released into the air. As long ago as the 1900s, some experts said that burning gasoline in automobiles could damage the environment. Studies show that we are now paying the price with our quality of air today. Those experts were right!

Hybrid vehicles currently coexist with gas-powered cars. Hybrids could significantly reduce the pollution we release into the air. It is true that these cars still use gasoline. But they certainly use a lot less of it. Hybrid cars utilize a combination of gasoline and electricity. One specific type of hybrid is a particularly good choice. This is because this type relies mostly on electric power. An electric motor turns the car's wheels, and gasoline is used to generate the electricity. The car is recharged by plugging it into an electrical outlet.

If everyone were required to drive a hybrid car, the amount of pollution from the use of gas would be hugely reduced. The government could make it a precondition that all new car owners buy hybrids. Drivers would not be allowed to buy cars that only run on gasoline. We would also be conserving our fossil fuels for other machines.

Hybrid cars have other advantages, too. Since they use gasoline, they can be refueled at any gas station so that the driver is not left stranded if there is nowhere to charge the battery. They are a great choice because they do not require a huge lifestyle change for drivers. They are very similar to the gas-powered cars that we are so familiar with. They just have one major difference: they greatly improve the environment in which we live.

Hybrid cars are the best choice to reduce air pollution around the world. Transcontinental car manufacturers should be required to stop selling the gas-guzzling cars of yesterday. Instead, they should sell hybrids at reasonable prices so that all people will be able to buy them. The future of our planet is at stake!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Now answer Numbers 1 through 5. Base your answers on “Smart Cars for Clean Air.”

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

**Part A:** What reason from the text best supports the author’s point of view that cars make life better for people?

- (A) Hybrid cars can run on gasoline.
- (B) Burning gasoline damages the environment.
- (C) Hybrid cars do not require a lifestyle change.
- (D) We rely on cars to take us to a number of places.

**Part B:** What sentence from the text **best** supports your answer to Part A?

- (A) “Cars take us to school, work, and anywhere else we want to go.”
- (B) “Hybrid cars are the best choice to reduce air pollution around the world.”
- (C) “While cars have given us the convenience of easy travel, the pollution they cause is a serious consequence.”
- (D) “But there is also no doubt that cars are slowly killing our planet.”

**2** Read this sentence from the text.

Hybrid vehicles currently coexist with gas-powered cars.

What does coexist mean in the sentence above?

- (A) exit
- (B) pollute
- (C) run both on gas and electricity
- (D) are used together

**3** Which statements support the author’s point of view on transportation? Select **two** options.

- A** It is not necessary to change driving habits.
- B** Cars are a convenient way to travel.
- C** People rarely use their cars.
- D** Cars are more important than the problems of pollution.
- E** Hybrid cars would reduce pollution.
- F** Gasoline is used to generate electricity.

**4** Read these sentences from the text.

The government could make it a precondition that all new car owners buy hybrids. Drivers would not be allowed to buy cars that only run on gasoline.

Based on this sentence, what does the prefix *pre-* in precondition mean?

- A** after
- B** against
- C** before
- D** without

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**5** Choose **all** the sentences that are true for both gas-powered and hybrid vehicles.

- A** They are a convenient way to travel.
- B** They are responsible for air pollution because they run only on gasoline.
- C** They are recharged by plugging it into an electrical outlet.
- D** They can be refueled at any gas station.
- E** They are sold at reasonable prices.
- F** They could significantly reduce air pollution.

Read the text “Fewer Cars for Clean Air” before answering Numbers 6 through 10.

## Fewer Cars for Clean Air

Cars are a major part of most of our lives. People count on their cars to do the things they need to do every day. But there is a downside to having so many cars on the road. As gasoline is burned, it releases pollution and harmful gases into the air. These get trapped in our atmosphere and increase the temperature of Earth. As the temperature goes up, ice melts and ocean levels rise. This can create international problems for people who live on coastlines. Rising temperatures affect people, animals, and plants around the world.

The intake of polluted air can be harmful to people. If people were to burn less gasoline, there would be fewer carbon emissions from our cars. This in turn would create less air pollution. Public transportation is the solution to our air pollution problem. People need to stop using their cars and find other ways to get places.

Public transportation is the use of buses, trains, subways, ferries, and other vehicles meant to carry a group of passengers. The benefit of public transportation is that only one vehicle releases air pollutants. Consider if 50 people rode a bus instead of driving their cars. That would eliminate a lot of gasoline and emissions!

Public transportation has other benefits, too. If this mode of travel were put into effect everywhere in the United States, it could greatly improve traffic problems on the streets. It would also save people money that they would be spending at the gas pump. Having fewer cars on the road also reduces the use of fossil fuels that are slowly being used up. These fossil fuels are not renewable resources. We cannot create more fuel once it is all gone.

Some people have supported the use of electric or hybrid cars as an alternative to gas-powered cars, but I disagree. These vehicles still involve the use of gas in some cases. They are also expensive and are still being perfected. Public transportation has already been proven to work and to improve the quality of our environment.

Public transportation might require a slight change in lifestyle. But do not misjudge the amount of help it can do. Isn't it worth it to ride a train or bus when you are helping to keep the air you breathe as clean as possible? We owe it to the planet to try to protect and respect it. After all, Earth is the only home we have. Let's do our part to improve the world in which we live.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Now answer Numbers 6 through 10. Base your answers on “Fewer Cars for Clean Air.”

6 Which sentences from the text support the author’s point of view? Select **three** options.

- (A) “But there is a downside to having so many cars on the road.”
- (B) “People need to stop using their cars and find other ways to get places.”
- (C) “Public transportation is the use of buses, trains, subways ferries, and other vehicles meant to carry a group of passengers.”
- (D) “These fossil fuels are not renewable resources.”
- (E) “Public transportation has already been proven to work and to improve the quality of our environment.”

7 Read this sentence from the text.

This can create dangerous international problems for people who live on coastlines.

*Inter* means “between.” What are international problems?

- (A) problems in one town
- (B) problems in one city
- (C) problems in at least two countries
- (D) problems in a large country



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**8** This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A:** According to the text, which is one effect of using public transportation?

- (A) People would be happier.
- (B) Public transportation can be cheaper.
- (C) Public transportation is easier.
- (D) People would get to their destinations faster.

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

- (A) "People count on their cars to do the things they need to do every day."
- (B) "It would also save people money that they would be spending at the gas pump."
- (C) "Public transportation might require a slight change in lifestyle."
- (D) "Let's do our part to improve the world in which we live."

- 9 Read these sentences from the text.

Public transportation might require a slight change in lifestyle. But do not misjudge the amount of help it can do. Isn't it worth it to ride a train or bus when you are helping to keep the air you breathe as clean as possible?

The prefix *mis-* in misjudge is a negative prefix. What does it mean to misjudge?

- (A) to think carefully about something
  - (B) to think correctly about something
  - (C) to think wrongly about something
  - (D) to think quickly about something
- 10 Why does the author believe that hybrid cars are poor solutions? Select **two** options that **best** support the author's point of view.
- (A) "Public transportation has other benefits, too."
  - (B) "Having fewer cars on the road also reduces the use of fossil fuels that are slowly being used up."
  - (C) "They are also expensive and are still being perfected."
  - (D) "As gasoline is burned, it releases pollution and harmful gases into the air."
  - (E) "These vehicles still involve the use of gas in some cases."
  - (F) "That would eliminate a lot of gasoline and emissions!"





Question	Correct Answer	Content Focus	CCSS	Complexity
1A	D	Author’s Point of View	RI.6.6	DOK 3
1B	A	Author’s Point of View/ Text Evidence	RI.6.6/ RI.5.1	DOK 3
2	D	Greek and Latin Prefixes	L.5.4b	DOK 1
3	B, E	Author’s Point of View	RI.6.6	DOK 3
4	C	Greek and Latin Prefixes	L.5.4b	DOK 1
5	A, D	Author’s Point of View	RI.6.6	DOK 3
6	A, B, E	Author’s Point of View	RI.6.6	DOK 3
7	C	Greek and Latin Prefixes	L.5.4b	DOK 1
8A	B	Author’s Point of View	RI.6.6	DOK 3
8B	B	Author’s Point of View/ Text Evidence	RI.6.6/ RI.5.1	DOK 3
9	C	Greek and Latin Prefixes	L.5.4b	DOK 1
10	C, E	Author’s Point of View	RI.6.6	DOK 3
11	see below	Writing About Text	W.5.9b	DOK 3
<b>Comprehension 1A, 1B, 3, 5, 6, 8A, 8B, 10</b>			/12	%
<b>Vocabulary 2, 4, 7, 9</b>			/8	%
<b>Total Weekly Assessment Score</b>			/20	%

- 11 To receive full credit for the response, the following information should be included: Both authors believe that air pollution is a major problem that is due primarily to the use of gas-powered cars. Both authors believe that these cars should be replaced, but they disagree on how to reduce air pollution. The author of “Smart Cars for Clean Air” thinks that hybrids are the best way to cut back on polluting the air. The author of “Fewer Cars for Clean Air” thinks that cars should be replaced with public transportation to reduce emissions and the pollution that enters the air.