

Progress Monitoring Probe 17

Automobile History

As early as the fifteenth century, inventors imagined vehicles that could move under their own power. It wasn't until almost three hundred years later, though, that such vehicles were built.	9	20	30
The first ones were steam-powered carriages. It took another one hundred years after that before people began building cars powered by gas engines. These cars were safer and easier to use than the steam-powered ones.	41	50	62
At first, the new gas-powered cars were very expensive. Only rich people could afford them. Then, at the beginning of the twentieth century, a man named Henry Ford began making a car called the Model T. It was the first car produced on an assembly line. All of the Model T's were black, because black paint dried faster than other colors. Ford used to say, "You can have any color you want as long as it's black."	67	77	88
Using Ford's assembly line, a car could be built in shorter time, so it cost less. Finally, working people such as farmers, teachers, and factory workers could afford to own a car.	99	112	123
Since that time, many other companies have joined Ford in producing cars on an assembly line. Over the years, the cars have changed dramatically. Today they are available in a rainbow of colors and in many different styles. Air conditioning, sound systems, and other luxury features are common in cars. Modern cars are much more powerful than the early ones, and they are equipped with safety equipment unheard of in the early days.	135	145	156
Owning cars has changed the way people work and live. Before they had cars, people had to live close to where they worked. That is because most had to walk to work. If they lived in the country, people had to plan weekly or monthly shopping	167	177	187
	199	209	218
	228	240	250
	260	272	285
	296		

Automobile History (Continued)

trips. It was not easy to hitch up the horses and make the trip into town in a wagon. Today, of course, people live in suburbs and commute to work in the city. They drive at the spur of the moment to neighborhood shopping malls. Banks, restaurants, and other places of businesses are even set up to serve customers in their cars.	311	323	336	343	355	358
Today, companies work to make cars better and safer. Just imagine how cars might change in the next one hundred years!	368	379				

Total words: _____ errors: _____ = words correct: _____

Notes:

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