

THE COST OF CAR OWNERSHIP

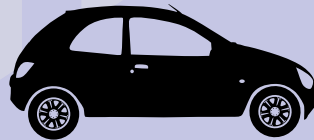
SECONDARY STUDENTS

Congratulations!

You have just earned your driver's license!

There are many options available when purchasing a car. You can choose between the following 2010 cars:

- >> trendy compact
- >> safe midsize sedan
- >> luxury sports car
- >> sports utility vehicle




TIPS FOR EFFICIENT DRIVING

When you think of ways to save energy on the road, you may immediately think of alternative-fuel cars. And while these vehicles, often called hybrids, are certainly helpful in the quest for cleaner energy in transportation, there are plenty of actions you can take to reduce the amount of fuel you use no matter what kind of car you drive!

- >> Tune your car regularly
- >> Keep tires properly inflated
- >> Avoid abrupt starts
- >> Go the speed limit
- >> Avoid lengthy engine idling
- >> Remove unnecessary cargo
- >> Combine short trips into one
- >> Use cruise control
- >> Use your air conditioner sparingly

Which vehicle is right for you?

Examples	Fuel Type	MPG (City)	MPG (Highway)	Annual Fuel Cost*
 <p>SMALL CAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honda Civic • Nissan Versa • Toyota Yaris 	Regular	26	35	\$1,343
 <p>MIDSIZE SEDAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nissan Altima • Chevrolet Malibu • Honda Accord • Toyota Camry 	Regular	21	30	\$1,606
 <p>SPORTS CAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Porsche Carrera • Pontiac Solstice • Mitsubishi Eclipse 	Premium	18	26	\$1,998
 <p>SPORTS UTILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honda Element • Ford Escape • Volkswagon Tiguan 	Premium	19	25	\$1,998

The information in the chart above is from www.fueleconomy.gov.

* Cost based on average US gasoline prices during third quarter of 2010: \$2.73 regular and \$2.93 premium

CONSIDER VEHICLE COSTS

It is expensive to own a vehicle, even if your parents have agreed to make your car payment. Have you considered the costs of insurance, routine maintenance, and vehicle inspection and registration? In addition, you must factor in the cost of fuel to travel to and from school, work, and social activities. Are you prepared for that financial responsibility?

1. Why is fuel economy an important consideration?
2. How many miles do you travel per week on average?
3. Using the average city MPG, calculate how many gallons of gas you'll need to travel that distance.
Small car _____
Sports car _____
Midsize sedan _____
Sports utility vehicle _____
4. Multiply those numbers by the current cost of gasoline in your area to determine how much money you will spend on gasoline per week.
Small car _____
Sports car _____
Midsize sedan _____
Sports utility vehicle _____
5. Now, multiply that amount by 52 (the number of weeks in a year) to calculate your average gas bill per year.
Small car _____
Sports car _____
Midsize sedan _____
Sports utility vehicle _____
6. What is your reaction? Did you know gasoline costs varied so much by vehicle?
7. List all other costs associated for owning a vehicle. Obtain US estimated dollar amounts (per year) for the items you listed.
8. Use those figures to calculate the total cost of car ownership for each of the vehicles (remember to add the annual fuel costs).
Small car _____
Sports car _____
Midsize sedan _____
Sports utility vehicle _____
9. Using your yearly total, calculate the number of hours you must work per month to maintain and drive your vehicle.
Small car _____
Sports car _____
Midsize sedan _____
Sports utility vehicle _____
10. Which vehicle costs are nonvariable? In other words, you will pay these whether or not you drive the car.
11. Based on your calculations, which car would you choose and why?

Activity adapted from NASA