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## Owning a car costs \$9,000 a year

**18th April, 2013**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

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# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

A new report from the American Automobile Association (AAA) says that the average car costs over \$9,000 a year to own and run. The AAA said that on average, the cost of driving 23,000 km a year rose around two per cent last year. This cost includes fuel, maintenance, insurance and repairs. The report says the biggest increase in costs was for maintaining the car – things like oil changes, new air filters, and safety inspections. AAA manager Michael Calkins said: "As a vehicle gets older, you tend to encounter more significant repair costs." The second largest increase was for insurance. Americans pay an average of \$1,029 a year to insure their car.

The AAA's report noted that the cost of owning a car depended on its size. Owners of small cars would probably spend around \$7,000 a year to keep their car running, while 4WD owners would have to pay over \$12,000 a year for their gas guzzlers. Mr Calkins also said that people were keeping their car for a longer time before buying a new one. "The length of time people keep cars has been going up for the past several years," he said. This is probably because of the global recession. People are putting off buying such an expensive item until the economy improves. Calkins added: "The average age of the vehicle on the road now is 11.1 years....The quality of the cars is also improving."

Sources: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/04/16/aaa-car-ownership-costs/2070397/>  
<http://www.autoworldnews.com/articles/3694/20130416/cost-car-ownership-rises-9-000-year-average-up-two-percent-car-news.htm>

# WARM-UPS

**1. OWNING A CAR:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about owning a car. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*the average car / cost of driving / fuel / maintenance / insurance / repairs / safety / small cars / 4WDs / global recession / expensive items / quality of cars / improving*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. CARS:** How can companies make them better? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Now	How to make things better
Price		
Fuel efficiency		
Seats		
Colours		
Music / TV		
Speed		

**4. NO CARS:** Students A **strongly** believe there will be no cars in the future; Students B **strongly** believe there will be more cars in the future. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. CAR FEATURES:** Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- colour
- speed
- air bags
- music player
- air con
- ABS
- GPS
- 4WD

**6. AVERAGE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'average'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. The report on car ownership is from the Royal Automobile Club (RAC). | T / F |
| b. The report looked at the costs of driving a car 23,000 km a year.    | T / F |
| c. The cost that increased most in the past year was maintenance.       | T / F |
| d. Americans pay (on average) over \$1,000 a year on insurance.         | T / F |
| e. Owners of small cars averaged just over \$5,000 in costs.            | T / F |
| f. People who drove 4WDs paid an average of more than \$12,000 a year.  | T / F |
| g. People are keeping their cars for a shorter time than before.        | T / F |
| h. The average length of time people kept their car was 7 years.        | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. run         | a. contains       |
| 2. rose        | b. delaying       |
| 3. includes    | c. likely         |
| 4. inspections | d. maintain       |
| 5. repair      | e. worldwide      |
| 6. noted       | f. checks         |
| 7. probably    | g. getting better |
| 8. global      | h. went up        |
| 9. putting off | i. fixing         |
| 10. improving  | j. mentioned      |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. costs over \$9,000 a year                 | a. and safety inspections |
| 2. This cost includes                        | b. their car              |
| 3. things like oil changes, new air filters, | c. for insurance          |
| 4. The second largest increase was           | d. guzzlers               |
| 5. insure                                    | e. fuel                   |
| 6. the cost of owning a car                  | f. recession              |
| 7. gas                                       | g. to own and run         |
| 8. people were keeping their car             | h. also improving         |
| 9. global                                    | i. depended on its size   |
| 10. The quality of the cars is               | j. for a longer time      |

# GAP FILL

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

A new report from the American Automobile Association (AAA) says that the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ car costs over \$9,000 a year to own and run. The AAA said that on average, the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of driving 23,000 km a year rose (3) \_\_\_\_\_ two per cent last year. This cost includes fuel, maintenance, insurance and (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The report says the biggest increase in costs was for maintaining the car – things like oil changes, new air filters, and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ inspections. AAA manager Michael Calkins said: "As a vehicle gets (6) \_\_\_\_\_, you tend to encounter more significant repair costs." The second largest increase was for (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Americans pay an average of \$1,029 a year to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ their car.

*safety*  
*around*  
*insurance*  
*average*  
*insure*  
*older*  
*cost*  
*repairs*

The AAA's report noted that the cost of owning a car (9) \_\_\_\_\_ on its size. Owners of small cars would (10) \_\_\_\_\_ spend around \$7,000 a year to keep their car running, while 4WD owners would have to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ over \$12,000 a year for their gas guzzlers. Mr Calkins also said that people were (12) \_\_\_\_\_ their car for a longer time before buying a new one. "The (13) \_\_\_\_\_ of time people keep cars has been going up for the past (14) \_\_\_\_\_ years," he said. This is probably because of the global recession. People are (15) \_\_\_\_\_ off buying such an expensive item until the economy improves. Calkins added: "The average age of the vehicle on the road now is 11.1 years...The (16) \_\_\_\_\_ of the cars is also improving."

*length*  
*putting*  
*depended*  
*quality*  
*pay*  
*several*  
*probably*  
*keeping*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

- 1) the average car costs over \$9,000 a year \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to own and run
  - b. town and run
  - c. two own and run
  - d. to own an drum
- 2) This cost includes fuel, maintenance, \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. insurance for repairs
  - b. insurance and repair
  - c. insurance to repair
  - d. insurance and repairs
- 3) things like oil changes, new air filters, \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. and safety inspection
  - b. and safety inspections
  - c. and safety inspecting
  - d. and safe inspection
- 4) As a vehicle gets older, you tend to encounter more \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. significance repair costs
  - b. significant repairs costs
  - c. significant repair costs
  - d. significant repair cost
- 5) Americans pay an average of \$1,029 a year to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. insure their car
  - b. ensure their car
  - c. insure their cars
  - d. ensure their cars
- 6) The AAA's report noted that the cost of owning a car \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. depended in its size
  - b. depended on its size
  - c. depended an its size
  - d. depended by its size
- 7) 4WD owners would have to pay over \$12,000 a year \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. for their gas guzzlers
  - b. for their gas guzzles
  - c. for their gas guzzling
  - d. for their gas guzzler
- 8) The \_\_\_\_\_ people keep cars has been going up for the past several years
  - a. long of time
  - b. longest of time
  - c. length of time
  - d. lengths of time
- 9) People are \_\_\_\_\_ such an expensive item until the economy improves
  - a. put tin off buying
  - b. putting off buy in
  - c. put in off buying
  - d. putting off buying
- 10) The average age of the vehicle on the road \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. now is 11.11 years
  - b. now is 10.1 years
  - c. now is 10.11 years
  - d. now is 11.1 years

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# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ American Automobile Association (AAA) says that the average car costs over \$9,000 (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The AAA said that on average, the cost of driving 23,000 km a year rose around two per cent last year. (3) \_\_\_\_\_, maintenance, insurance and repairs. The report says the biggest increase in costs was (4) \_\_\_\_\_ – things like oil changes, new air filters, and safety inspections. AAA manager Michael Calkins said: "As a vehicle gets older, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ more significant repair costs." The second largest increase was for insurance. Americans pay an average of \$1,029 a (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The AAA's report noted that the cost of owning (7) \_\_\_\_\_ size. Owners of small cars would probably spend around \$7,000 a year to keep their car running, (8) \_\_\_\_\_ have to pay over \$12,000 a year for their gas guzzlers. Mr Calkins also said that people were keeping their car for a longer time (9) \_\_\_\_\_ one. "The length of time people keep cars has been going up for the past several years," he said. This is probably (10) \_\_\_\_\_ recession. People are putting off buying (11) \_\_\_\_\_ until the economy improves. Calkins added: "The average age of the vehicle on the road now is 11.1 years....The (12) \_\_\_\_\_ improving."

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

1. What do the initials AAA mean?

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2. How much did the cost of running a car increase by last year?

---

3. What was the biggest increase in costs last year?

---

4. What did a man say happens when a car ages?

---

5. Why is the amount \$1,029 mentioned in the article?

---

6. What does the cost of owning a car depend on?

---

7. How much do people pay on average to run a 4WD?

---

8. What are people doing for a longer time?

---

9. When will people start buying more cars?

---

10. How old is the average car on the road in the USA?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

1. What do the initials AAA mean?
  - a) American Association of Automobiles
  - b) American Automobile Association
  - c) Association of American Automobiles
  - d) Automobile Association of America
2. How much did the cost of running a car increase by last year?
  - a) \$9,000
  - b) 23
  - c) a lot
  - d) around 2%
3. What was the biggest increase in costs last year?
  - a) insurance
  - b) fuel
  - c) maintenance
  - d) repairs
4. What did a man say happens when a car ages?
  - a) you have to pay more in repairs
  - b) it drives better
  - c) you need to change the oil filter
  - d) insurance becomes more expensive
5. Why is the amount \$1,029 mentioned in the article?
  - a) it's how much cars went up in price
  - b) it's the average Americans pay for insurance
  - c) that's the cost of a safety inspection
  - d) the average repair bill
6. What does the cost of owning a car depend on?
  - a) size
  - b) model
  - c) how many seats it has
  - d) speed
7. How much do people pay on average to run a 4WD?
  - a) over \$7,000
  - b) over \$9,000
  - c) over \$12,000
  - d) over \$23,000
8. What are people doing for a longer time?
  - a) keeping their cars
  - b) driving
  - c) fixing their cars
  - d) looking for cheaper insurance
9. When will people start buying more cars?
  - a) when the prices come down
  - b) if fuel costs fall
  - c) when there are more eco-friendly cars
  - d) when the economy improves
10. How old is the average car on the road in the USA?
  - a) 9.9 years
  - b) 12.2 years
  - c) 11.1 years
  - d) 13.13 years

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# ROLE PLAY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

## **Role A – Car owner**

You are tired of spending money on your car. Tell the others three reasons why. You think everything should be cheaper – insurance, fuel, repair costs, etc. You also think your city should cut down traffic jams and make more parking spaces.

## **Role B – Repair shop owner**

You are tired of people complaining about the cost of repairs. Tell the others three reasons why. You make almost no profit on repairing cars. Spare parts, oil, labour, etc. are all expensive. Tell everyone car repairs are good value for money.

## **Role C – Car maker CEO**

You think cars are cheap. Tell the others three reasons why. You think that if people drove more carefully, their cars would last longer and insurance would go down. Also, people need to learn to make their own basic repairs. Car repair shops are very expensive.

## **Role D – Town planner**

You think there are too many cars in towns. Tell the others three reasons why. You think there should be a limit on the size of cars – only small ones. You also think people should leave their cars at home instead of drive into towns. This will make the car last longer and reduce running costs.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'average' and 'car'.

<b>average</b>	<b>car</b>
----------------	------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• new</li><li>• 23,000</li><li>• includes</li><li>• oil</li><li>• older</li><li>• \$1,029</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• size</li><li>• small</li><li>• gas</li><li>• length</li><li>• economy</li><li>• 11.1</li></ul>
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# OWNING A CAR SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

Write five GOOD questions about owning a car in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# OWNING A CAR DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'car'?
- c) Is having a car good value for money?
- d) What would life be like without cars?
- e) Is it cheaper to use public transport for a year than running a car?
- f) Why do people love their cars so much?
- g) What do you think of the cost of car insurance?
- h) Do you think the cost of running cars will be cheaper in the future?
- i) Is insurance a waste of money?
- j) What are the best and worst things about cars?

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# OWNING A CAR DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Should we ban big cars?
- c) Why do people who live in cities buy 4WDs?
- d) What's your favourite car (and why)?
- e) What could you buy for \$7,000 a year if you didn't have to run a car?
- f) Why do some people change their cars every few years?
- g) Is a car a luxury or a necessity?
- h) How can we reduce the number of cars on the road?
- i) What things must you have in a car?
- j) What questions would you like to ask AAA manager Michael Calkins?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

A new (d) \_\_\_\_\_ from the American Automobile Association (AAA) says that the average car costs over \$9,000 a year to own and (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The AAA said that on average, the cost of driving 23,000 km a year (3) \_\_\_\_\_ around two per cent last year. This cost includes fuel, maintenance, insurance and repairs. The report says the biggest increase in costs was for (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the car – things like oil changes, new air filters, and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ inspections. AAA manager Michael Calkins said: "As a vehicle gets older, you tend to encounter more significant repair costs." The second largest increase was for insurance. Americans pay an average of \$1,029 a year to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ their car.

The AAA's report noted that the cost of (7) \_\_\_\_\_ a car depended on its size. Owners of small cars would probably spend around \$7,000 a year to keep their car (8) \_\_\_\_\_, while 4WD owners would have to pay over \$12,000 a year for their gas guzzlers. Mr Calkins also said that people were keeping their car for a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ time before buying a new one. "The length of time people keep cars has been going up for the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ several years," he said. This is probably because of the global recession. People are putting (11) \_\_\_\_\_ buying such an expensive item until the economy improves. Calkins added: "The average age of the vehicle on the road now is 11.1 years....The quality of the cars (12) \_\_\_\_\_ also improving."

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                 |              |                 |               |
|-----|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) reported    | (b) reporter | (c) reports     | (d) report    |
| 2.  | (a) speed       | (b) pay      | (c) time        | (d) run       |
| 3.  | (a) set         | (b) rose     | (c) shone       | (d) lit       |
| 4.  | (a) maintenance | (b) maintain | (c) maintaining | (d) maintains |
| 5.  | (a) safety      | (b) safe     | (c) safest      | (d) safely    |
| 6.  | (a) insure      | (b) ensure   | (c) reassure    | (d) pressure  |
| 7.  | (a) owner       | (b) owners   | (c) owns        | (d) owning    |
| 8.  | (a) running     | (b) runners  | (c) ruined      | (d) ruining   |
| 9.  | (a) length      | (b) longer   | (c) longing     | (d) longish   |
| 10. | (a) passed      | (b) lasted   | (c) past        | (d) lasts     |
| 11. | (a) on          | (b) up       | (c) off         | (d) down      |
| 12. | (a) do          | (b) is       | (c) have        | (d) are       |

# SPELLING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

## Paragraph 1

1. American Automobile sointiAosca
2. atecmennnia, insurance and repairs
3. eftsya inspections
4. you tend to crnnetoeu more
5. tnicifnisag repair costs
6. niseru their car

## Paragraph 2

7. ddepnede on
8. blapbyro spend around \$7,000
9. egnlht of time
10. global eiseorscn
11. until the onmcyeo improves
12. The iutlyaq of the cars



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) repairs. The report says the biggest increase in costs was for maintaining the car – things like oil changes,
- ( ) age of the vehicle on the road now is 11.1 years....The quality of the cars is also improving."
- ( ) new air filters, and safety inspections. AAA manager Michael Calkins said: "As a vehicle gets older, you tend
- ( ) of small cars would probably spend around \$7,000 a year to keep their car running, while 4WD owners would have to
- ( ) The AAA's report noted that the cost of owning a car depended on its size. Owners
- ( ) costs over \$9,000 a year to own and run. The AAA said that on average, the cost of driving 23,000 km
- ( ) a year rose around two per cent last year. This cost includes fuel, maintenance, insurance and
- ( **1** ) A new report from the American Automobile Association (AAA) says that the average car
- ( ) keeping their car for a longer time before buying a new one. "The length of time people keep cars has
- ( ) been going up for the past several years," he said. This is probably because of the global recession. People are
- ( ) to encounter more significant repair costs." The second largest increase
- ( ) putting off buying such an expensive item until the economy improves. Calkins added: "The average
- ( ) pay over \$12,000 a year for their gas guzzlers. Mr Calkins also said that people were
- ( ) was for insurance. Americans pay an average of \$1,029 a year to insure their car.

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

1. car to average year \$9,000 The a over costs own.

---

2. 2%. a driving 23,000 km of around cost rose The year

---

3. biggest increase in costs was for maintaining the car The.

---

4. You significant tend repair to costs encounter more.

---

5. of average an pay Americans year a \$1,029.

---

6. of owning a car depended on its size The cost.

---

7. to \$7,000 running year car a around their Spend keep.

---

8. were car longer People their a keeping for time.

---

9. an putting such item are buying expensive People off.

---

10. of improving the cars The is quality also.

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# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

A new report from the American Automobile Association (AAA) says that the average car *costs / cost* over \$9,000 a year to own and *ran / run*. The AAA said that *on / in* average, the cost of driving 23,000 km a year *rise / rose* around two per cent last year. This *costs / cost* includes fuel, maintenance, insurance and repairs. The report says the biggest increase *on / in* costs was for maintaining the car – *things / thing* like oil changes, new air filters, and *safety / safely* inspections. AAA manager Michael Calkins said: "As a vehicle gets older, you *tend / mend* to encounter more significant repair costs." The second largest increase was for insurance. Americans pay an average of \$1,029 a year to *ensure / insure* their car.

The AAA's report *noted / noting* that the cost of owning a car depended *of / on* its size. Owners of small cars would *probable / probably* spend around \$7,000 a year to keep their car *runs / running*, while 4WD owners would have to pay over \$12,000 a year for *their / them* gas guzzlers. Mr Calkins also said that people were keeping their car for a *length / longer* time before buying a new one. "The length of time people keep cars has been *gone / going* up for the past several years," he said. This is probably because of the *globally / global* recession. People are putting off buying such an expensive item until the economy *improvement / improves*. Calkins added: "The average age of the vehicle on the road now is 11.1 years....The quality of the cars *are / is* also improving."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

\_ n\_w \_ r\_p\_r\_t \_ fr\_m \_ th\_ \_ m\_r\_c\_n \_ \_t\_m\_b\_l\_ \_  
\_ss\_c\_\_t\_\_n (\_\_\_) s\_ys th\_t th\_ \_v\_r\_g\_ c\_r c\_sts  
\_v\_r \$9,000 \_ y\_\_r t\_ \_wn \_nd r\_n. Th\_ \_\_\_ s\_\_d th\_t  
\_n \_v\_r\_g\_, th\_ c\_st \_f dr\_v\_ng 23,000 km \_ y\_\_r r\_s\_ \_  
\_r\_\_nd tw\_ p\_r c\_nt l\_st y\_\_r. Th\_s c\_st \_ncl\_d\_s f\_\_l,  
m\_\_nt\_n\_nc\_, \_ns\_r\_nc\_ \_nd r\_p\_\_rs. Th\_ r\_p\_r\_t s\_ys  
th\_ b\_gg\_st \_ncr\_\_s\_ \_n c\_sts w\_s f\_r m\_\_nt\_\_n\_ng  
th\_ c\_r - th\_ngs l\_k\_ \_\_\_l ch\_ng\_s, n\_w \_\_r f\_lt\_rs, \_nd  
s\_f\_ty \_nsp\_ct\_\_ns. \_\_\_ m\_n\_g\_r M\_ch\_\_l C\_lk\_ns  
s\_\_d: " \_s \_v\_h\_cl\_ g\_ts \_ld\_r, y\_\_ t\_nd t\_ \_nc\_\_nt\_r  
m\_r\_ s\_gn\_f\_c\_nt r\_p\_\_r c\_sts." Th\_ s\_c\_nd l\_rg\_st  
\_ncr\_\_s\_ w\_s f\_r \_ns\_r\_nc\_. \_m\_r\_c\_ns p\_y \_n  
\_v\_r\_g\_ \_f \$1,029 \_ y\_\_r t\_ \_ns\_r\_ th\_\_r c\_r.

Th\_ \_\_\_'s r\_p\_r\_t n\_t\_d th\_t th\_ c\_st \_f \_wn\_ng \_ c\_r  
d\_p\_nd\_d \_n \_ts s\_z\_. \_wn\_rs \_f sm\_ll c\_rs w\_\_ld  
pr\_b\_bly sp\_nd \_r\_\_nd \$7,000 \_ y\_\_r t\_ k\_\_p th\_\_r c\_r  
r\_nn\_ng, wh\_l\_ 4WD \_wn\_rs w\_\_ld h\_v\_ t\_ p\_y \_v\_r  
\$12,000 \_ y\_\_r f\_r th\_\_r g\_s g\_zzl\_rs. Mr C\_lk\_ns \_ls\_  
s\_\_d th\_t p\_\_pl\_ w\_r\_ k\_\_p\_ng th\_\_r c\_r f\_r \_l\_ng\_r  
t\_m\_ b\_f\_r\_ b\_y\_ng \_n\_w \_n\_. "Th\_ l\_ngth \_f t\_m\_  
p\_\_pl\_ k\_\_p c\_rs h\_s b\_\_n g\_\_ng \_p f\_r th\_ p\_st  
s\_v\_r\_l\_y\_\_rs," h\_ s\_\_d. Th\_s \_s pr\_b\_bly b\_c\_\_s\_ \_f  
th\_ gl\_b\_l\_r\_c\_ss\_\_n. P\_\_pl\_ \_r\_ p\_tt\_ng \_ff b\_y\_ng  
s\_ch \_n \_xp\_ns\_v\_ \_t\_m \_nt\_l th\_ \_c\_n my \_mpr\_v\_s.  
C\_lk\_ns \_dd\_d: "Th\_ \_v\_r\_g\_ \_g\_ \_f th\_ v\_h\_cl\_ \_n  
th\_ r\_\_d n\_w \_s 11.1 y\_\_rs....Th\_ q\_\_l\_ty \_f th\_ c\_rs \_s  
\_ls\_ \_mpr\_v\_ng."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

a new report from the american automobile association (aaa) says that the average car costs over \$9000 a year to own and run the aaa said that on average the cost of driving 23000 km a year rose around two per cent last year this cost includes fuel maintenance insurance and repairs the report says the biggest increase in costs was for maintaining the car – things like oil changes new air filters and safety inspections aaa manager michael calkins said "as a vehicle gets older you tend to encounter more significant repair costs" the second largest increase was for insurance americans pay an average of \$1029 a year to insure their car

the aaa's report noted that the cost of owning a car depended on its size owners of small cars would probably spend around \$7000 a year to keep their car running while 4wd owners would have to pay over \$12000 a year for their gas guzzlers mr calkins also said that people were keeping their car for a longer time before buying a new one "the length of time people keep cars has been going up for the past several years" he said this is probably because of the global recession people are putting off buying such an expensive item until the economy improves calkins added "the average age of the vehicle on the road now is 111 years...the quality of the cars is also improving"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car\\_ownership.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1304/130418-car_ownership.html)

A new report from the American Automobile Association (AAA) says that the average car cost over \$9,000 a year to own and run. The AAA said that on average, the cost of driving 23,000 km a year rose around two percent last year. This cost includes fuel, maintenance, insurance and repairs. The report says the biggest increase in costs was for maintaining the car – things like oil changes, new air filters, and safety inspections. AAA manager Michael Calkins said: "As a vehicle gets older, you tend to encounter more significant repair costs." The second largest increase was for insurance. Americans pay an average of \$1,029 a year to insure their car. The AAA's report noted that the cost of owning a car depended on its size. Owners of small cars would probably spend around \$7,000 a year to keep their car running, while 4WD owners would have to pay over \$12,000 a year for their gas guzzlers. Mr Calkins also said that people were keeping their car for a long time before buying a new one. "The length of time people keep cars has been going up for the past several years," he said. This is probably because of the global recession. People are putting off buying such an expensive item until the economy improves. Calkins added: "The average age of the vehicle on the road now is 11.1 years.... The quality of the cars is also improving."







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about owning a car. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. OWNING A CAR:** Make a poster about the costs of owning a car. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. CARS:** Write a magazine article about cars. Include imaginary interviews with people who love them and people who think they are a waste of money.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to the owner of a car company. Ask him/her three questions about cars. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F    b T    c T    d T    e F    f T    g F    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. run         | a. maintain       |
| 2. rose        | b. went up        |
| 3. includes    | c. contains       |
| 4. inspections | d. checks         |
| 5. repair      | e. fixing         |
| 6. noted       | f. mentioned      |
| 7. probably    | g. likely         |
| 8. global      | h. worldwide      |
| 9. putting off | i. delaying       |
| 10. improving  | j. getting better |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. American Automobile Association
2. Two per cent
3. Maintenance
4. You have to pay more in repairs
5. It's what Americans pay for insurance, on average.
6. Its size
7. Over \$12,000
8. Keeping their cars before buying a new one
9. When the economy improves
10. 11.1 years old

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b    2. d    3. c    4. a    5. b    6. a    7. c    8. a    9. d    10. c

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)