

The Car of the Future ?

Is this "snail car" the car of the future ? It does not resemble any of the cars we use today, and indeed it is very different... and totally high-tech. But you won't see a car like this on the roads tomorrow. The future is coming, but not quite so fast.



Here is the car of the future! This car is the opposite of today's cars; today's cars are noisy and dirty, this one is silent and clean. Today's cars have wheels, this one does not. It moves like a snail, but much faster than a snail !

This car will use electric energy, not petrol or gasoline; it will have batteries that can be recharged instantly from chargers in the road. It will also be very easy to drive.

In fact, you won't need to drive it; it will drive itself. You will just need to tell the computer: "Go to X" and the car will go there. Also, it will reach X very quickly, much faster than today's cars. It will also be very safe and comfortable.

A lot of the technology already exists, but it is very experimental. Already today scientists are developing new materials for the surface of roads: In fifty years from now, perhaps sooner, some new roads will capture solar energy : they will store this energy under the road, and some cars will be able to use it.

However you probably won't ever drive a "snail car", even if you're under 20 today. This, perhaps, is the car of the year 2100, the car that your grandchildren will maybe drive.

Driving will be nice in the 22nd century ! No pollution, no traffic-jams, no stress.

If, of course, we reach the 22nd century....With all today's problems of global warming, pollution, viruses and natural resources, nothing is certain any more. Scientists have lots of ideas about the car of the future: but the future itself is perhaps less sure.....

ACTIVITIES:

- 1) MAKE A CHART COMPARING TODAY'S CARS AND CARS OF THE FUTURE.
EXAMPLE:

TODAY'S CARS	CARS OF THE FUTURE
HAVE WHEELS	NO WHEELS
YOU DRIVE	YOU WON'T NEED TO DRIVE. IT WILL DRIVE ITSELF

HAY MUCHAS COMPARACIONES ENTRE LOS AUTOS DE HOY Y LOS DEL FUTURO EN EL TEXTO.

ALGUNAS COSAS (SOBRE LOS AUTOS DE HOY TAL VEZ NO ESTÁN EN EL TEXTO – COMO LO DE MANEJAR, PERO LAS SABEMOS).

USTEDS DISEÑEN EL FORMATO DEL CUADRO QUE QUIERAN, PERO QUE SEA UN CUADRO COMPARATIVO.

- 2) WRITE **YES** OR **NO** NEXT TO THESE STATEMENTS.

ACCORDING TO THE TEXT, IN THE FUTURE:

- A. THERE WILL BE A LOT OF TRAFFIC JAMS.
- B. PEOPLE WILL DRIVE THEIR CARS.
- C. THERE WIL NOT BE SO MUCH STRESS.
- D. THERE WILL NOT BE POLLUTION.
- E. SCIENTISTS HAVE A LOT OF IDEAS.
- F. THESE CARS WILL APPEAR SOON.
- G. DRIVING WILL BE EASY IN THE 22ND CENTURY.