

Unit 1

Introduction to Automobile History

Unit Objectives

After studying this unit, you are able to

- familiarize students with automobile history and its future development;
- have students grasp words and expressions to describe automobile and cars;
- have students understand English documentary about auto history;
- talk about auto classifications;
- write an invitation letter.



Warming-up

Task 1 Work in groups to finish the theme-related activities.

1. Do you think you are a pretty big automotive fan?
2. How much history do you know about cars or automobiles?
3. What is your favorite car brand?
4. What do people see most important in choosing a car?

Task 2 Research Activity. Check how much information you can find out through searching online with the given themes and finish the following tasks.

1. Steam-powered vehicles large enough to transport people and cargo were first devised in the late 18th century. Work in groups and surf on the Internet for the basic structure of a steam-powered vehicle.
2. The blueprint for the modern automobile was perfected in Germany and France in the late 1800s. Americans dominated the industry in the first half of the twentieth century. Ford, General Motors and Chrysler emerged as the “Big Three” auto companies by the 1920s. Search the Internet about the three auto makers and share your findings with your partners about their histories.

Reading A

History of Cars

The history of the automobile began as early as 1769, with the creation of steam automobiles capable of human transport. In 1806, the first cars powered by an internal combustion engine running on fuel gas appeared, which led to the introduction in 1885 of the ubiquitous modern petrol-fueled engine.

It is generally known that the first really practical automobiles with gasoline-powered internal combustion engines were completed almost simultaneously by several German inventors working independently: Karl Benz built his first automobile in 1885 in

Mannheim. Benz was granted a patent for his automobile on 29 January 1886, and began the first production of automobiles in 1888 in a company which later became the famous Mercedes-Benz.



In North America and Europe, the automobile

became cheaper and more accessible to the middle class. This was facilitated by Henry Ford.

The assembly line style of mass production had been pioneered in the U.S. This concept was greatly expanded by Henry Ford, beginning in 1914. The large-scale, production-line manufacturing of cheap automobiles came off the line in fifteen minute intervals, much faster than previous methods, increasing productivity eightfold, while using less manpower.

The original Jeep vehicle that first appeared became the primary light 4-wheel-drive vehicle of the United States Army and Allies and made a huge leap in sale during World War II, as well as the postwar period. Many Jeep variants serving similar military and civilian roles have already been created and kept being improved on general performance in other nations.

Throughout the 1950s, engine power and vehicle speeds rose, designs became more integrated and artful, and cars spread across the world. The market changed somewhat in the 1960s as Detroit began to worry about foreign competition, the European makers adopted ever-higher technology, and Japan appeared as a serious car-producing nation. General Motors, Chrysler, and Ford tried radical small cars, like the GM A-bodies, but had little success.

Most automobiles in use today are fueled by gasoline or diesel. Both fuels are known to cause air pollution and are also blamed for contributing to climate change and global warming. Efforts to improve or replace existing technologies include the development of hybrid vehicles, plug-in electric vehicles and hydrogen vehicles.

New Words

automobile [ˈɔ:təməbi:l] *n.* 汽车

internal [ɪn'tɜ:nl] *adj.* 内部的; 里面的

independently [ɪn'dɪ'pendəntli] *adv.* 独立地; 自立地

accessible [ək'sesəbl] *adj.* 易接近的; 可进入的

previous [ˈpri:vɪəs] *adj.* 以前的; 早先的

Phrases and Expressions

lead to 导致

grant a patent 颁发专利

come off 举行, 表现

Task 1 Look at the following statements and the list of auto companies or car types in the box. Match each statement with the correct concept A-F. Write the right letter A-F in boxes in the bubbles.

- () 1. The company which began the first manufacture of automobiles.
- () 2. The company that produces the industrialized cars that consumers can afford.
- () 3. The example of auto which improved the space room efficiency.
- () 4. The type of auto with greatest upgraded overall performance in postwar era.
- () 5. The type of autos still keeping an advanced sale even during a seemingly unproductive period.

- A. The Ford (American, Henry Ford).
- B. The BMC's Mini
- C. Cadillac and Lincoln (American)
- D. Mercedes-Benz (German)
- E. Mazda
- F. Jeep

Task 2 Complete the topic sentence below with words from Reading Text A.

- 6. Paragraph 1: The history of the automobile began as early as _____, with the creation of _____ capable of _____.
- 7. Paragraph 2: The first practical automobiles with _____ were completed almost simultaneously by several _____ independently.
- 8. Paragraph 3: As a result, in _____ and _____ the automobile became cheaper and more accessible to _____.
- 9. Paragraph 5: Many Jeep variants serving similar _____ and _____ roles have since been created and kept _____ on general performance in other nations.
- 10. Paragraph 7: Most automobiles in use today are fueled by _____ or _____. Both fuels are known to cause _____ and are also blamed for contributing to _____ and global warming.

Listening

Task 1 Listen to 10 sentences for workplace communication with the help of their Chinese meaning.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. 你的车好气派啊! | What a magnificent car you've got! |
| 2. 你的汽车是什么牌子的? | What's the brand of your automobile? |
| 3. 你买了这辆车多长时间了? | How long have you got this car? |
| 4. 约翰, 你最喜欢什么车? | John, what kind of car do you like best? |
| 5. 恐怕我买不起。 | I'm afraid I can't afford it. |
| 6. 奔驰车坐着很舒服。 | Benz is very comfortable to sit on. |
| 7. 你想要考驾照吗? | Do you want to get a driver license? |
| 8. 考试包括笔试和路考。 | This exam includes written test and road test. |
| 9. 这取决于你开的车型。 | It depends on what type of vehicle you drive. |
| 10. 她想报个驾校。 | She is thinking of attending a driving school. |

Task 2 Listen to the short news and fill up the blanks according to what you have heard. The words in the brackets will give you relevant hints.

Henry Ford Made the Automobile Industry an Important Part of the Nation's Economy

Every week at this time, we tell the story of a person important in the history of _____ (which country). Today, Steve Ember and Frank Oliver complete the story of _____ (what identity) Henry Ford. In _____ (when), a doctor in Detroit, Michigan, bought the first car from the _____ (which place). That sale was the beginning of Henry Ford's dream. He wanted to build good, _____ (which kind) cars for the general public.

Old Henry Ford retired from business. His thoughts were in the past. He died in his sleep in 1947, at the age of _____ (how old). Henry Ford was not the first man whose name was given to an _____ (what). But his name — more than any other — was linked to that machine. And his dream changed the lives of _____ (how many) people.

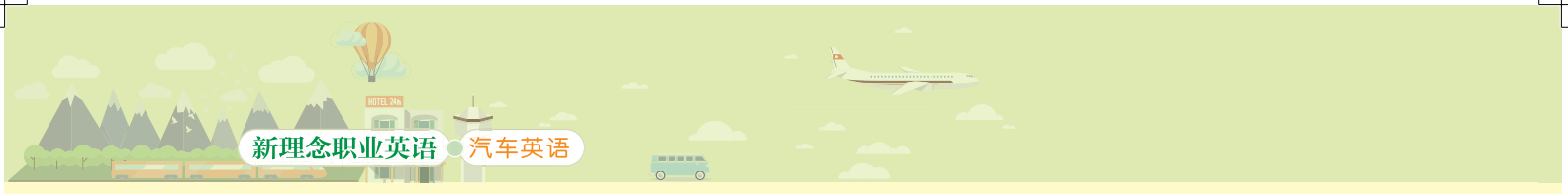
Speaking

Task 1 Read the following sample questions and try to perform your own responses.

Question 1: Can you drive a car?

Possible Answer: No, I don't have a driver's license. Actually I don't think I can handle the steering wheel properly and keep the car going straight. Also, I am bad at locality, so driving would be the last thing I want to do.

Your Answer: _____



Question 2: Do you like cars?

Possible Answer: Yes, I like cars. There are different types of cars, such as sports car, limousine, truck, van, wagon etc. but I like SUV best.

Your Answer: _____

Question 3: If you want to buy a car, what kind of car will you choose?

Possible Answer: My dream car is BMW X6 and because it's multifunctional. It has got 5 leather seats and an enlarged sky window. It's cool and the flashiest thing is that a GPS system was installed in it, so I do not need to locate the route.

Your Answer: _____

Question 4: Do you like traveling by car?

Possible Answer: No, I don't think so. Driving for a long time is no picnic. It takes lots of energy to concentrate on the road condition. Also, traffic congestion is a norm in my country.

Your Answer: _____

Question 5: Why people buy private cars?

Possible Answer: Most families purchase cars for convenience. My father has a van, and he knows driving backwards and forwards. My father drives to work on weekdays and he drives us for picnic or to the beach during weekends or family days.

Your Answer: _____

Task 2 Work in pairs. Practice the following famous quotations about Driving & Cars, discuss their deeper meaning and try to recite.

1. Patience is something you admire in the driver behind you and scorn in the one ahead.
2. It takes 8,460 bolts to assemble an automobile and one nut to scatter it all over the road.
3. The best car safety device is a rear-view mirror with a cop in it. ~Dudley Moore
4. Leave sooner, drive slower, live longer.
5. Hug your kids at home, but belt them in the car.

Task 3 Read each kind of auto in English, work in groups and try to use the information to define what each of them is like. For example:

Sports car: A sports car, or sportscar, is a small, usually two-seater, two-door car designed for exciting performance. Steering and driving are typically designed for precise control at high speed. Traditionally sports cars were open roadster.



sports car

Now try to define the following cars.



micro compact car



hatchback



convertible



minivan



sport-utility vehicle



pickup truck

Task 4 Auto Shanghai (上海国际汽车展) is officially known as the Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition. Global car makers showed off hundreds of vehicles in Shanghai every year in the world's biggest auto market. In this section, imagine one group of students are in the auto show working as an exhibitor. The other groups of students act as journalists asking about its new technology. The preparation time should be no more than ten minutes. The interview can start like this:

A: Welcome to the exhibition of Audi Auto, we are glad to show you our latest car model.

B: Thanks, and I am a journalist from CRI. I'd like to know ...

A: Of course. There are many new designs about it.

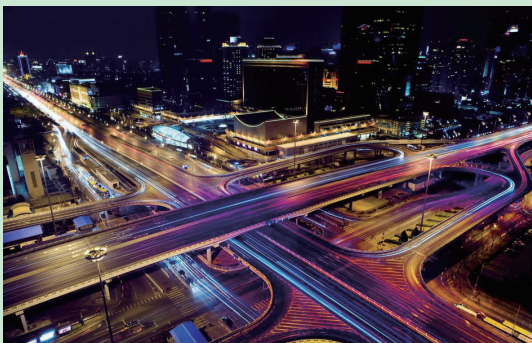
B: _____

A: _____

Reading B

Future Development Trend of Automobile Industry

Automobile industry is a huge system engineering, which needs a series of industrial products to match with. With the increasingly rapid economic growth, the demand for automobile is also rising year by year. In recent years, auto industry presents many new trends, such as the rise of electric automobile, higher requirements for auto safety performance, energy conservation, environment protection and lightweight. Now, let me briefly introduce several major development trends in future automobile industry.



Trend 1: Security

Security has always been a hot topic with car users. In future, more advanced systems will be introduced in auto manufacturing process, including ensuring the safety of drivers, passengers and pedestrians, improving car safety index. For example, car roof laser welding and rear cover laser welding can improve body structure rigidity dramatically.

Trend 2: Lightweight

Future auto industry will break the traditional view of "The Heavier, The Safer". Lighter car has better acceleration performance when start and shorter braking distance when brake. In the meanwhile, reduce vehicle weight can increase output power, reduce noise and improve handling. Furthermore, automobile lightening can effectively economize energy and decrease environmental pollution.

Trend 3: Electrification

Automobile electrification is considered to be a revolution in automotive technology development process, and automobile electrification degree is identified as the important index of weighing the grade level of the automobile. Currently, the electronic technique application has almost get into all the car system.

Trend 4: Flexibility

As a pillar industry in the modern industry, auto industry involves machinery, welding, electronics, metallurgy, casting, materials and other aspects. Therefore, flexible manufacturing technology is centrally demonstrated in auto industry. The development of flexibility makes technological equipment and process route applicable to all kinds of automobile products manufacturing. At present, laser processing technology is the most typical representative

for flexibility of automobile manufacturing production line.

Trend 5: Energy Conservation and Environment Protection

With the increasing rising of international crude oil market prices, people face the unprecedented energy challenges. Energy shortage has brought reality shock to the development of the auto industry. At the same time, the problem of the pollution from automobile exhaust is becoming more and more serious. Energy-efficient and environment-friendly car has become the inevitable developing trend of auto industry.

The development trend of auto industry in the future is much more than above mentioned. No matter what kind of automobile is developed, advanced manufacturing technology cannot be divorced from its profound impact.

New Words

industry ['ɪndəstri] *n.* 产业; 工业

engineering [endʒɪ'nɪərɪŋ] *n.* 工程, 工程学

economic [i:kə'nɒmɪk] *adj.* 经济的, 经济上的;

lightweight ['laɪtweɪt] *adj.* 重量轻的;

manufacturing ['mænju'fæktʃərɪŋ] *n.* 制造业; 工业;

profound [prə'faʊnd] *adj.* 深厚的; 意义深远的

Phrases and Expressions

demand for 需求

be considered to be 被认为

be identified as 被认定为

face the challenge 面对挑战

Notes

1. Automobile electrification is considered to be a revolution in automotive technology development process, and automobile electrification degree is identified as the important index of weighing the grade level of the automobile.

汽车电气化被认为是汽车科技发展进程的一项改革，而且汽车电气化的水平也被认定为衡量汽车制造水准的一项重要指标。

2. At the same time, the problem of the pollution from automobile exhaust is becoming more and more serious. Energy-efficient and environment-friendly car has become the inevitable developing trend of auto industry.

同时，来自汽车尾气污染的问题变得愈加严峻，节能环保型汽车已然成为了汽车行业的必然发展趋势。

Writing

Writing an Invitation Letter

Invitation Letter

A letter of invitation serves as a formal request for an individual's presence or attendance to an event, dinner, celebration or formal occasion.

Useful Sentence Patterns:

1. I am writing to invite you to...
2. I think it would be a great idea if you could participate in...
3. Would you please drop me a line to let me know if you could come to...?
4. May we have the honor to have you with us?
5. We are looking forward to your reply.

Sample Structure:

Dear Sir or Madam,

It's our great honor to invite you to our _____ for visiting. The forum will start from

We send you our kindest regards and best wishes for a pleasant trip.

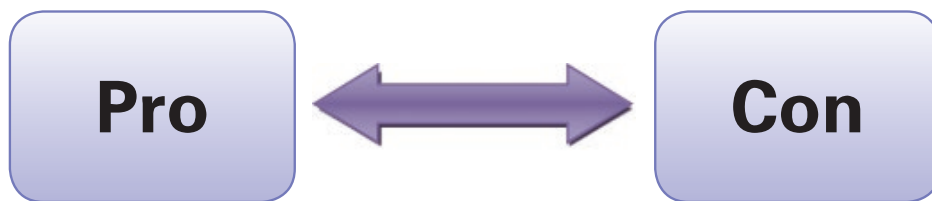
Yours sincerely,
General Manager
Jack

Writing Practice

Imagine you are the organizer of a graduation ceremony. You are planning to invite international experts to attend the ceremony.

Project

Discover the advantages and disadvantages of cars. In this part, the whole class can be divided into two groups and then discuss the advantages of automobile in its convenience, effects on economy, on social employment as well as its disadvantages. Debate as pros and cons.



Grammar

Part of Speech and Sentence Components 词类及其之间的相互关系

一、词类

名称	缩写	中文译称	例子	功能
noun	<i>n.</i>	名词	boy, milk, love	表示人、物及抽象概念的名称
pronoun	<i>pron.</i>	代词	you, I, my, yours	代替名词或起名词作用的短语、句子

续表

名称	缩写	中文译称	例子	功能
adjective	<i>adj.</i>	形容词	good, happy, nice	描绘人或事物的特征、性质、状态
adverb	<i>adv.</i>	副词	well, fast, quickly	表达时间、地点、程度、方式等概念
verb	<i>v.</i>	动词	do, cut, run, jump	表示动作或状态
numeral	<i>num.</i>	数词	two, third, fourth	表示数目多少或顺序
article	<i>art.</i>	冠词	a, an, the	限定、说明名词的所指
preposition	<i>prep.</i>	介词	at, in, with, for	表示词与词、词与句之间的关系
conjunction	<i>conj.</i>	连词	and, so, because	连接词、短语或句子，表达逻辑关系
interjection	<i>interj.</i>	感叹词	oh, yeah, ouch	表示喜怒哀乐等感情或情绪

注：不少单词不仅仅属于一个词类，在不同的语言环境下可体现不同的词性。例如：

1. Would you like to take a **walk**? (名词)
2. I usually **walk** to school. (动词)

二、词与词之间的关系

1. 冠词修饰和限定名词：a book, an apple, the president
2. 形容词修饰名词：new car, beautiful flower
3. 副词修饰动词、形容词、副词及整个句子：
 - I speak English loudly. (修饰动词)
 - She is really pretty. (修饰形容词)
 - “What happened?” the father asked, rather slowly. (修饰副词)
 - Fortunately, no one was hurt. (修饰整个句子)
4. 介词后接名词或动名词：in spring, look forward to visiting your city

Comprehensive Exercises

Task 1 Identify the part of speech of the word underlined in each sentence.

1. We went to a wonderful show in Beijing. _____
2. Jenny wanted to show Jack her photos. _____
3. Henry thought Claire looked beautiful. _____
4. A strange thought came into her mind. _____
5. The windows are clean. _____
6. We should clean the windows. _____

7. Wendy is feeling quite tired now. _____
8. Studying all day had tired Wendy out. _____
9. We did some hard work. _____
10. They worked hard. _____

Task 2 Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of the word given in the bracket.

- Living in the country is less _____ (expense) than living in the city.
- Although John was not experienced in business, he did it with _____ (confident).
- The chairman emphasized his ideas by speaking more _____ (loud).
- Some American businessmen in China are spending a lot of time in _____ (learn) Chinese.
- Some people do believe that smoking will _____ (certain) cause lung cancer.
- I'm _____ (real) sorry for the mistake our office worker made last month.
- Could you go to bed _____ (early) than you usually do?
- The sellers allowed us to pay them on a _____ (month) basis.
- John is the _____ (clever) student I have ever taught.
- He told a very _____ (live) story about his life in Africa.

Task 3 Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of the word given in the bracket.

When Helen Keller was born, she was a(n) 1 _____ (health) baby. But 2 _____ (unfortunate), when she was 19 months old, she had a sudden fever. Later, the fever 3 _____ (disappearance), but she became blind and deaf.

When Helen was seven years old, a teacher, Anne Sullivan, came to live with Helen's family. First, Anne taught Helen how to talk with her fingers. Then Anne taught Helen to read by the Braille system. Helen learned these things 4 _____ (quick). However, learning to speak was harder. Anne continued to teach Helen 5 _____ (patient). 6 _____ (final), when Helen was 10 years old, she could speak 7 _____ (clear) enough for people to understand her.

Helen went to an institute for the blind, where she did very well in her studies. Then she went to college, where she graduated with honors when she was 24 years old. Helen traveled 8 _____ (extensive) with Anne. She worked 9 _____ (tireless), traveling all over America, Europe and Asia to raise money to build schools for blind people. Her main message was that disabled people are like everybody else. They want to live life fully and 10 _____ (normal). Helen wanted all people to be treated equally.

Enjoy Yourself

Do you know how to say different parts of a car in English? Now look at this picture and check how many you can remember.

