

## Discussion Writing:

Should people stop using petrol cars and switch to electric vehicles (EVs)?



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### Learning Intention

I am learning to write a balanced discussion that explores both sides of an environmental issue and finishes with my own opinion supported by reasons.

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### Success Criteria

By the end of this lesson, I can:

- Write a clear introduction that explains the issue.
  - Present **three or more reasons for** and **three or more reasons against** electric vehicles.
  - Use connectives like *Firstly*, *However*, *On the other hand*, and *Therefore* to link ideas.
  - Write a thoughtful conclusion that summarises both sides and states my own opinion.
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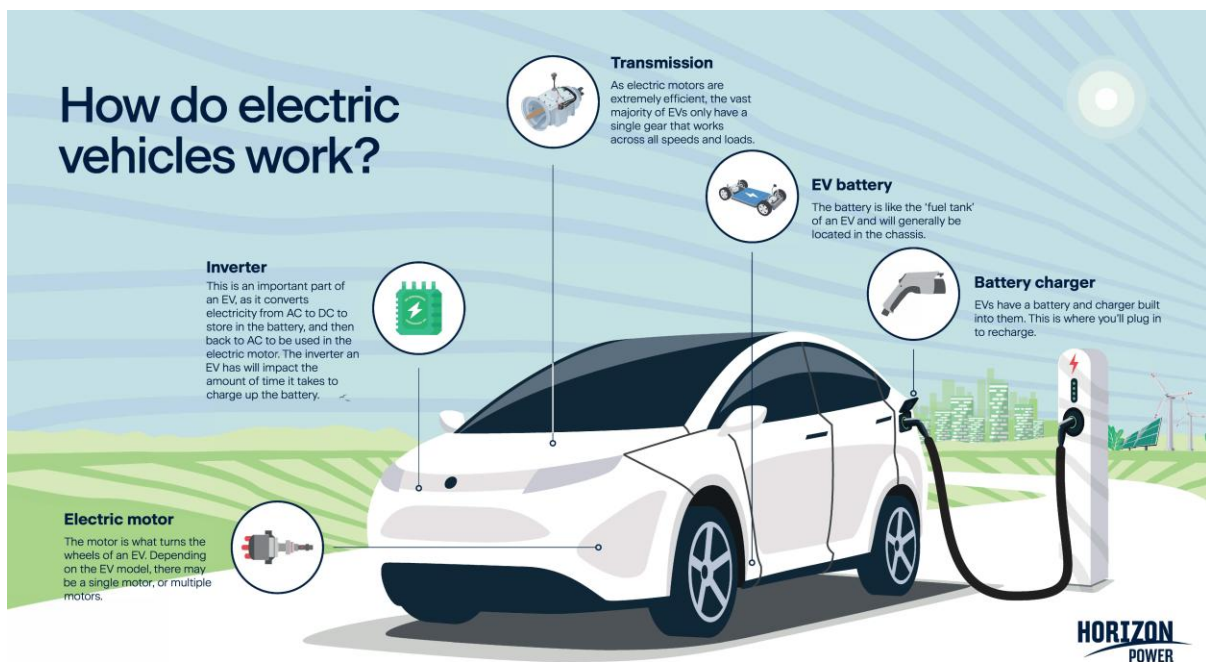
## Background Knowledge

Cars are an important part of everyday life. They help people travel quickly, carry goods, and connect communities.

However, the type of **fuel** they use affects the **environment**.

- **Petrol cars** burn fuel made from oil, releasing gases like carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that cause **air pollution** and **climate change**.
- **Electric vehicles (EVs)** run on electricity stored in batteries. They don't produce exhaust fumes, so they keep the air cleaner.
- **Hybrid cars** use both petrol and electricity. They switch between the two to save fuel and reduce pollution.

While electric cars are better for the planet, they can be **expensive** and need **charging stations**. Petrol cars are **cheaper** and **easier to refuel**, but they pollute more. Hybrid cars try to balance both.



Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV)	Plug in Hybrid (PHEV)	Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV)
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For those who still want their petrol reserve.	For those who want the best of both worlds.	For the 'all or nothing' EV lover who wants to go 100% electric.
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<p>The most common type of electric car available so far - using both an electric motor and combustion engine to drive the car.</p> <p>Some hybrids use the engine to charge up a battery pack to power an electric motor. Other types use the electric motor to accelerate and then switches to the engine once cruising speed is reached.</p>	<p>Similar to a HEV but with one important difference... it can be plugged in to an external power source to charge the battery.</p> <p>In addition, a plug in hybrid has a longer range in electric mode, better fuel efficiency and less overall carbon emissions compared to a HEV.</p>	<p>What most people think of when it comes to 'Electric Vehicles': Powered 100% by electricity, using a battery pack to store the power that powers an electric motor.</p> <p>BEVs can typically travel from 300km to 400km+ depending on the battery capacity.</p>
<p><b>Key parts</b> Internal combustion engine Electric motor Battery</p>	<p><b>Key parts</b> Internal combustion engine Electric motor Battery</p>	<p><b>Key parts</b> Electric motor Battery</p>
<p><b>Energy source</b> Petrol/diesel</p>	<p><b>Energy source</b> Petrol/diesel + electricity</p>	<p><b>Energy source</b> Electricity</p>
<p><b>Tailpipe carbon emissions</b> Yes</p>	<p><b>Tailpipe carbon emissions</b> Yes but less than hybrid models</p>	<p><b>Tailpipe carbon emissions</b> No</p>
<p><b>Think...</b> Toyota Yaris Cross, Kia Niro Hybrid</p>	<p><b>Think...</b> Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross, BMW i8</p>	<p><b>Think...</b> Tesla, BYD, MG, Volvo, and many others</p>

**💡 Quick Think Questions**

1. What fuel do petrol cars use?  
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2. What powers electric cars?  
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3. Why do people want to reduce petrol use?  
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4. What might be difficult about owning an electric car?  
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 **Table: Popular Petrol, Hybrid, and Electric Cars**

Type of Car	Popular Models	Fuel/Energy Used	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Petrol Cars</b>	Toyota Corolla, Mazda 3, Ford Ranger, Hyundai i30	Petrol	Easy to refuel, cheaper to buy, long driving range	Produces pollution, uses non-renewable fuel
<b>Hybrid Cars</b>	Toyota Camry Hybrid, Honda Accord Hybrid, Hyundai Ioniq, Toyota RAV4 Hybrid	Petrol and Electricity	Uses less petrol, produces less pollution, smooth drive	Still releases some CO <sub>2</sub> , more expensive than petrol cars
<b>Electric Cars (EVs)</b>	Tesla Model 3, Hyundai Ioniq 5, Nissan Leaf, MG ZS EV, BYD Atto 3	Electricity	No exhaust gases, quiet, cheaper to run long-term	Expensive to buy, needs charging stations, long charging time



# Toyota Hybrids

The best of both worlds



## Extended Modelled Discussion

**Topic:** Should people stop using petrol cars and switch to electric vehicles?

### **Introduction:**

Cars are one of the most common inventions in human history. They help people travel to school, work, shops, and holidays quickly and easily. However, the type of fuel that cars use can greatly affect our planet. Petrol cars, which have been around for more than a hundred years, release gases such as carbon dioxide when they burn fuel. These gases rise into the atmosphere and trap heat, contributing to global warming. As a result, many scientists and governments have started encouraging people to buy electric vehicles, or EVs, which run on electricity instead of petrol. Supporters of electric cars argue that they are cleaner, cheaper to run, and better for the environment. Critics, on the other hand, point out that electric cars are expensive, inconvenient to charge, and not yet completely “green.” This discussion will explore both sides of this global debate before presenting a balanced conclusion.

### **Arguments For:**

**Firstly**, electric vehicles are much better for the environment. Petrol cars release smoke and toxic gases that pollute the air and make it harder for people and animals to breathe. When thousands of cars drive each day, the pollution builds up, creating smog in cities and damaging the ozone layer. Electric vehicles do not produce exhaust fumes, which means cleaner air, clearer skies, and healthier lungs for everyone. For example, Norway has seen lower pollution levels since most people there switched to EVs.

**Secondly**, electric cars can use renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. This means they can run on energy that never runs out. Petrol, diesel, and gas are made from oil that comes from deep under the ground, and once the oil is used up, it’s gone forever. Charging a car using solar panels or clean electricity reduces the world’s dependence on oil and helps slow down climate change. If more countries install solar charging stations, people will be able to drive long distances without harming the planet.

**Thirdly**, although electric cars cost more to buy at the start, they can save people money over time. Electricity is usually cheaper than petrol, so it costs less to travel the same distance. EVs also have fewer moving parts, so they don't need as many repairs. Some governments even give discounts or rebates to people who buy electric cars, which encourages families to make the switch. Over a few years, the savings on fuel and repairs can make up for the higher price of the car.

**Fourthly**, technology is improving quickly. Battery life is getting longer, charging is getting faster, and more models are being built every year. In some countries, a full charge now lasts for hundreds of kilometres. Car companies are also designing EVs that are stylish and fun to drive, showing that protecting the planet doesn't mean giving up comfort or performance.

#### **Arguments Against:**

**Firstly**, electric cars are still very expensive compared with petrol cars. Even though prices are falling, many families cannot afford them. A new electric car can cost tens of thousands of dollars more than a petrol one, and second-hand options are still limited. For people on a tight budget, buying a petrol car is the only realistic choice.

**Secondly**, charging an electric car takes much longer than filling a tank with petrol. In busy households, waiting several hours for a car to charge can be frustrating. In rural or remote areas, there may not be enough charging stations, so drivers could get stuck if their battery runs flat. Petrol stations, on the other hand, are everywhere, and refuelling takes only a few minutes. Until charging networks grow, this problem will remain a major concern.

**Thirdly**, the production of electric-car batteries can damage the environment. Factories need metals such as lithium, cobalt, and nickel, which are mined from the earth. Mining can destroy animal habitats and pollute water supplies. When batteries wear out, they must be recycled carefully, or they can leak harmful chemicals. Some scientists warn that unless recycling improves, battery waste might become the next big pollution problem.

**Fourthly**, not all electricity used to charge cars is clean. In many countries, electricity still comes from burning coal or gas. This means that even though an electric car does not release smoke itself, the power station that provides its electricity might. As a result, EVs are not completely free from pollution until all energy comes from renewable sources.

#### **Conclusion:**

The question of whether people should stop using petrol cars is not a simple one. Petrol cars are affordable, fast to refuel, and convenient, while electric cars are cleaner and more sustainable. In my opinion, the best path forward is to move gradually from petrol to electric vehicles. Governments should help by offering discounts, building more charging stations, and investing in renewable energy so that electricity becomes truly clean. Car companies should continue improving battery technology and

lowering prices so more people can afford EVs. Individuals can also help by choosing public transport, car-sharing, or walking for short trips. Change will take time, but every small step brings us closer to a future where transport is cleaner, quieter, and kinder to our planet.

 **Guided Planning Scaffold**

<b>Section</b>	<b>What to Include</b>	<b>Example Sentence Starters</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	State the issue and mention both sides	<i>Many people are debating whether petrol cars should be replaced by electric cars because...</i>
<b>For 1</b>	Environmental benefit	<i>Firstly, electric cars help the planet because...</i>
<b>For 2</b>	Renewable energy	<i>Secondly, EVs can use clean power from solar or wind energy, which means...</i>
<b>For 3</b>	Cost savings	<i>Thirdly, even though they are expensive to buy, electric cars...</i>
<b>Against 1</b>	Cost concerns	<i>However, electric cars are costly and not everyone can afford them because...</i>
<b>Against 2</b>	Charging issues	<i>Another problem is that EVs need charging stations, and some areas...</i>
<b>Against 3</b>	Battery production	<i>Finally, making batteries can harm the environment since factories...</i>
<b>Conclusion</b>	Your opinion	<i>I believe that... because...</i>

## Your Turn – Independent Writing Task

### Topic:

Should people stop using petrol cars and switch to electric vehicles?

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### Introduction – State the Issue Clearly

Explain what the issue is, why people are debating it, and show that there are two sides.

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### Arguments For – Why Electric Vehicles Are Better

Write **at least three** detailed reasons **for** switching to EVs.

Use connectives like *Firstly, Secondly, Thirdly, In addition, Furthermore.*

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