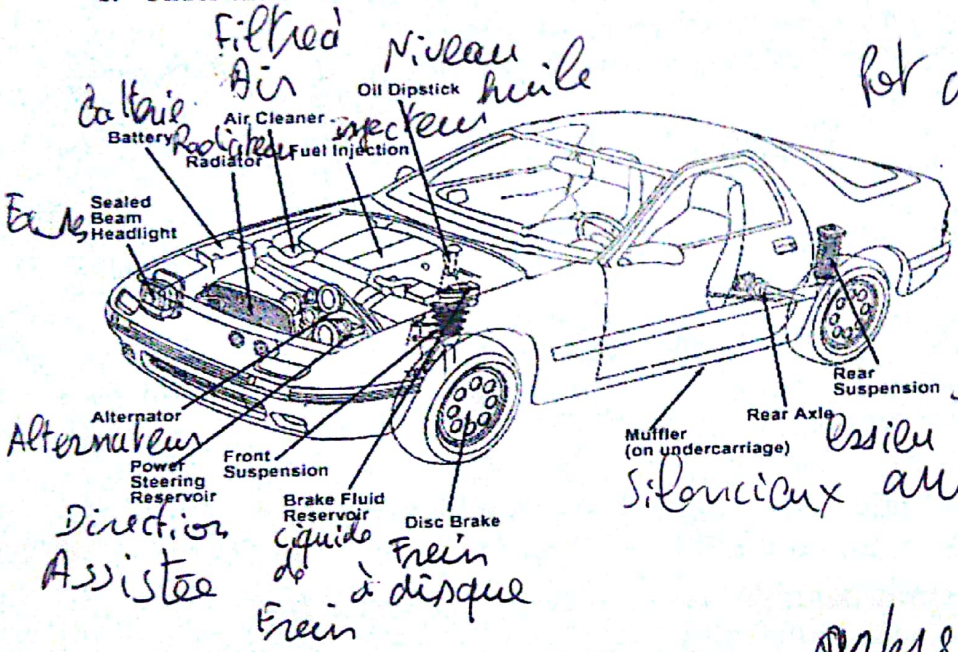
# CARS OF THE FUTURE

Do you know anything about the insides of a car?
Can you identify any of those in French?

Use a dictionary if you must and find out what those various parts are called.

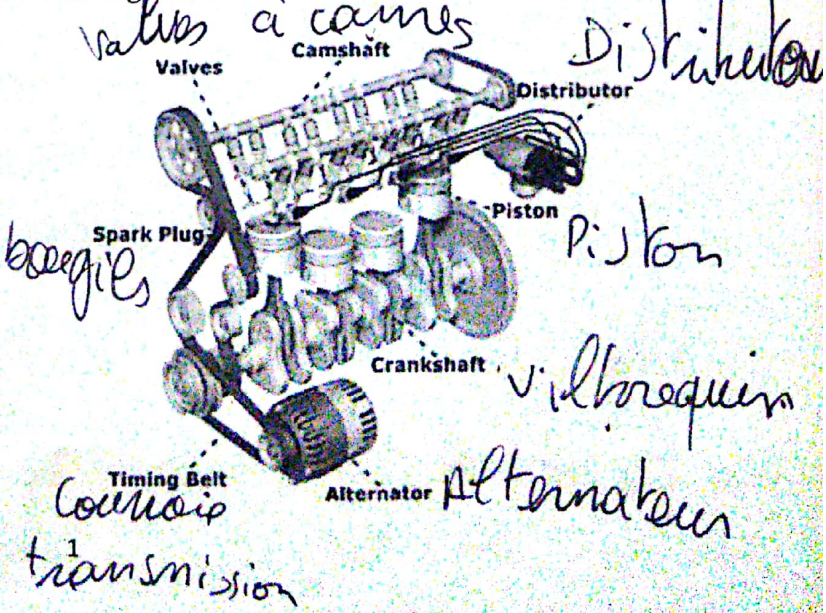
Bonnet = Capot
Pot d'échappement
exhaust pipe

## 1. Under the bonnet




Filtre à air — Niveau huile — Batterie — Radiateur — Injecteur — Phares — Alternateur — Direction Assistée — Liquide de Frein — Frein à disque — Silencieux — Essieu arrière — suspension

## 2. The engine



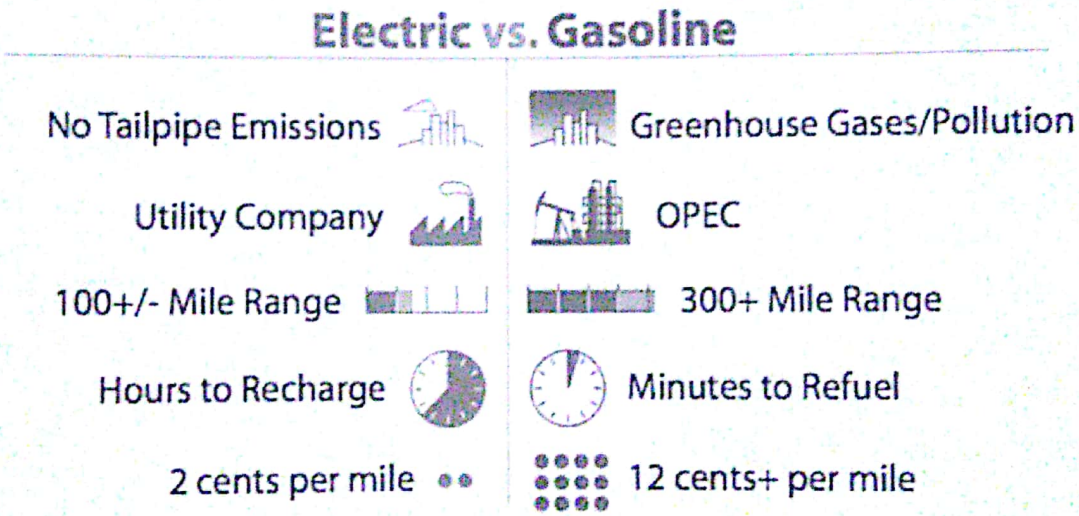

Soupapes — arbre à cames — Distributeur — Piston — bougies — vilebrequin — Courroie — transmission — Alternateur

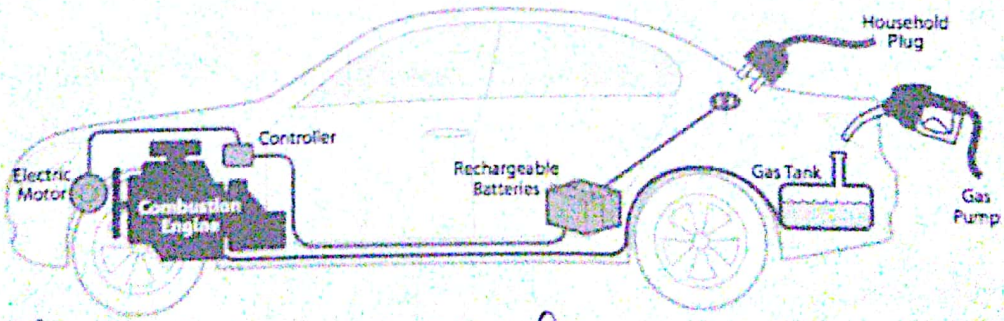
# Electric Cars

## What Is An Electric Car?

An **electric car** is powered by an electric motor instead of a gasoline engine. The electric motor gets energy from a controller, which regulates the amount of power—based on the driver's use of an accelerator pedal. The electric car (also known as *electric vehicle* or *EV*) uses energy stored in its rechargeable batteries, which are recharged by common household electricity.

**Unlike a hybrid car—which is fueled by gasoline and uses a battery and motor to improve efficiency—an electric car is powered exclusively by electricity.** Historically, EVs have not been widely adopted because of limited driving range before needing to be recharged, long recharging times, and a lack of commitment by automakers to produce and market electric cars that have all the creature comforts of gas-powered cars. That's changing. As battery technology improves—simultaneously increasing energy storage and reducing cost—major automakers are expected to begin introducing a new generation of electric cars.




The electric car is cleaner than the gasoline car. The gasoline car doesn't take as long as the electric car to recharge. Driving a gasoline car is way more expensive than driving an electric car.

Read the information shown on page 2 (diagram) tand write comparisons between Gasoline and electric cars.
Use:
**MORE THAN**
**NOT AS MUCH AS**
**AS AS**

....and other phrases expressing comparisons

**Now, let's go shopping!**
**Read about the cars shown below, pick what you want and convince us that's it's the best one – use SUPERLATIVE structures here**

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**Chevrolet Volt**

*Drive the best of both worlds*
*Despite the Volt's eco image, it's actually fun to drive, without the range anxiety of pure electric vehicles. Its-gasoline-hybrid powertrain offers impressive all-electric range, greater efficiency, and better acceleration. The all-electric range is 53 miles; after that, the gas engine starts up to recharge the battery and keep you going. In our testing, we recorded 59 MPGe. There are five seats, but the middle rear seat is almost unusable. Charge times are 13 hours on 120V and 4.5 on 240V.*

Specifications: front-engine, front-wheel-drive, 5-passenger, 4-door hatchback

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**Nissan Leaf**

*The Leaf's driving range makes it an affordable EV with everyday usability. The electric motor has great low-end power, and the 40-kWh battery is estimated to offer a 150-mile range. DC quick charging can replenish 88 miles of range in 30 minutes, but a full charge from a typical 120-volt wall outlet will take 35 hours. ProPilot Assist adaptive cruise control and camera-based, self-steering lane-keeping assist is optional. The all-new Leaf will be sold in all 50 states starting in early 2018.*

Specifications: front-motor, front-wheel-drive, 5-passenger, 4-door hatchback

**The Pop.Up**

*Aircraft manufacturer Airbus has teamed with the design firm* Italdesign *to create a flying-car concept. Dubbed the Pop.Up, the two-seat city car is a modular concept that consists of a four-wheeled rolling platform, a passenger compartment, and a 14.4-foot-long by 16.4-foot-wide rooftop drone. Measuring 102.4 inches long and 55.1 inches tall, the passenger module is truly a space for storing two people. Greeting passengers is a giant screen where one would expect a typical dashboard to be. Missing are a steering wheel and/or control stalks, as well as foot pedals. This is because the Pop.Up is a fully autonomous machine that can be summoned via an app that also allows users to book and plan trips.*

The pop-Up is the most original/ futuristic-looking car.

# 'Flying Car' Goes to Market

*From Motor Authority and Discovery News*

1. Zhejiang Geely, the Chinese holding company that controls the Volvo, Lynk & Co., Geely and Lotus brands, announced on Monday plans to fully acquire American flying car startup Terrafugia.

2. Terrafugia, based in Boston, Massachusetts, became one of the first firms in the flying car space when it was founded in 2006 by a group of engineers at MIT.

3. The company's first product will be the Transition, which is promised for a market launch in 2019. It features a 2-seat cabin and a foldable wing. The latter enables it to easily fit in a standard car lane, and unfolding the wings can be achieved in under a minute.

4. The Transition is promised to deliver a 400-mile flying range and a top-flight speed of 100 mph. While it still requires a runway for takeoff and landing, Terrafugia has a more advanced design known as the Transition TF-X that promises vertical takeoff and landing and even better performance. This model is promised for a market launch in 2023.

5. Terrafugia is currently accepting $10,000 reservations for the Transition and expects the final price to come in at $279,000. They are not the first firm to attempt what may be the ultimate hybrid.

6. "It's probably a concept that people have been dreaming up since there have been airplanes and cars," said Dick Knapinski with the Experimental Aircraft Association, a 55-year-old aviation group based in Oshkosh, Wisc.

7. A company called Aerocar of Longview, Wash., debuted one of the first flying cars in 1949. The company built six prototypes, one of which is sitting in the EAA's museum, but never went into production.

8. Advances in materials and propulsion technologies are among the reasons why Terrafugia is in position for commercial success. But equally important, says Knapinski, is an easing of government regulations on private aircraft and pilot licensing.

9. As cities become more congested, more and more companies are entering the race to develop safe, reliable and relatively affordable flying cars. Geely isn't even the first automaker to be associated with flying cars. Toyota already has a team working on a flying car. And Mercedes-Benz parent company Daimler has invested in German flying taxi startup Volocoptor, while Uber is working with NASA to develop a flying taxi service of its own.

**Exercise I –**
**Look for synonyms of these words in the text, and write them opposite the words given in the boxes below**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| conglomerate | | cheap | |
| purchase | | jammed | |
| track | | introduction | |
| presently | | ascent | |
| spreading | | created | |

**Exercise 2 –**
**Right or wrong? Just write R or W opposite each sentence –no justification is required.**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. You can drive the Transition on normal roads. | |
| 2. Terrafugia plans to release the Transition in 2019. | |
| 3. At least two companies are developing flying cabs. | |
| 4. The first flying car dates back to 1949. | |
| 5. It is getting more difficult to obtain a pilot's licence now. | |

**Your opinion – talk or write bout it!**

Would you be prepared to use such a car?

Do you think the future of traveling relies on cars?

**Role Play:**
Uber has been using a fleet of self-driving cars in Pittsburgh since September 2016.
Do some research on autonomous cars and get ready for a debate about Uber's self-driving car program.