### Could Air be the Solution to the

# **Global Energy Crisis?**



**Objective:** To develop reading skills / deducing meaning of vocabulary from context

To explore alternative energy sources

Create a brand and a name for a range of air powered vehicles.

**Activity:** Read this text about an air powered car and try to decide if it is true.

Reading (or listen) https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/teacheng/files/aircar.mp3

There is a car that can run on air. It is cheap, creates no pollution and costs almost nothing to run. **But is it just too good to be true?** 

The CAT (compressed air technology) car was on display at the Paris motor show (2002). The car was invented by Frenchman Guy Negre. He spent six years developing his idea and actually produced a car that can travel up to 120 miles (200 kilometres) on one *tank* of compressed air and reach speeds of up to 65 mph (110 kph). The car was due to cost around 7,000 pounds (10,000 euros) and came complete with its own refuelling system.



There is one major problem with the car though. It will take around four to five hours to refuel. A high speed refuelling station has been designed, but this will cost around 70,000 pounds (100,000 euros).

The company believed that the car would sell well to taxi companies and delivery firms that operate in towns, because they don't need to travel long distances and they would have been able *to afford* the cost of the refuelling station.



**Guy Negre**, head of French company **MDI enterprises** s.a, presents at the Paris Auto show, September 27, 2002, this small city car, which runs entirely on compressed air.

Some *critics* have *pointed out* that the car hasn't been properly tested yet and that the company's *claims* about the car's performance may be *exaggerated*, but even if the car can only achieve half of what the makers claim, it could turn out to be the answer both to the global energy *crisis* and to the problem of inner-city pollution, which still exists today in 2020.

# Tasks:

1. Read these sentences and put an **A** at the end if you agree with them and **D** if you disagree.

<ol> <li>Nobody will buy the CAT car because they are too slow.</li> </ol>	
2. I would rather buy a CAT car than a Mercedes.	
3. People are too worried about the environment.	
4. There isn't really a problem.	
<ol><li>Big companies should spend more money on finding clean power sources.</li></ol>	
6. Ordinary people can do nothing to protect the environment. It is a job for the government.	
7. Big companies don't care about the environment. They just want to make money.	
Cars are terribly dirty things. We should use more public transport.	
9. Public transport is too expensive.	
10. In a few years' time, because of global warming everybody will be driving an air-powered car.	
10. Car makers will never invest in air-powered cars.	
oa. o.	



Read the text again and make notes about these things and their connection to the text. There is an example:

	Answers
1. Guy Negre	He is the Frenchman who invented the car
2. Six years	
3. 120 miles	
4. 65 miles an hour	
5. £7,000	
6. Four to five hours	
7. £70,000	
8. Taxi companies	
o you think air rplanes) will e	-powered cars or any other forms of transport (lik

Watch this: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4w6aJMNXSk

# **Vocabulary exercise:**

Look at the **bold** words in the text and match them to these meanings. One has been done for you as an example.

<u>Definitions</u>	Answers
a. a difficult time	
b. being shown	on display
c. container for fuel	
d. facts that may not be true	
e. people who disagree with something	
f. be powered by	
g. to have enough money to buy something	
h. made to seem bigger or more important than they are	
i. commented	



# Further Tasks:

Research modern day air-powered transports online.
2. Could/ does it work?
3. What other forms of 'clean' energy could/ is used to run vehicles?
4. Design an air- powered car (A4 paper and a pencil/ crayons is needed here!)



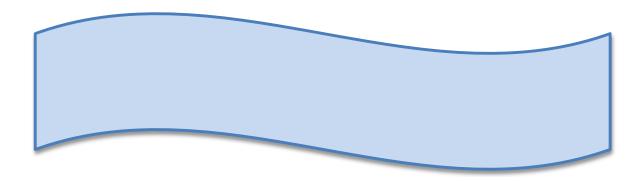
5. Finally, Make a prediction about air-powered cars/ vehicles in the future. What are your views e.g. is it a good/ bad idea?
Would you travel in an air-powered car (explain with reasons)?



<sup>\*</sup>For further information about up-to-date air-powered cars, watch this PowerPoint: <a href="https://www.slideshare.net/deepikagarg72/air-powered-car">https://www.slideshare.net/deepikagarg72/air-powered-car</a>

Create a brand and a name for a vehicle of your choice with this new technology below.

- Cars, Vans and Lorries.
- Buses and Coaches
- Trains?



Well done ☺

