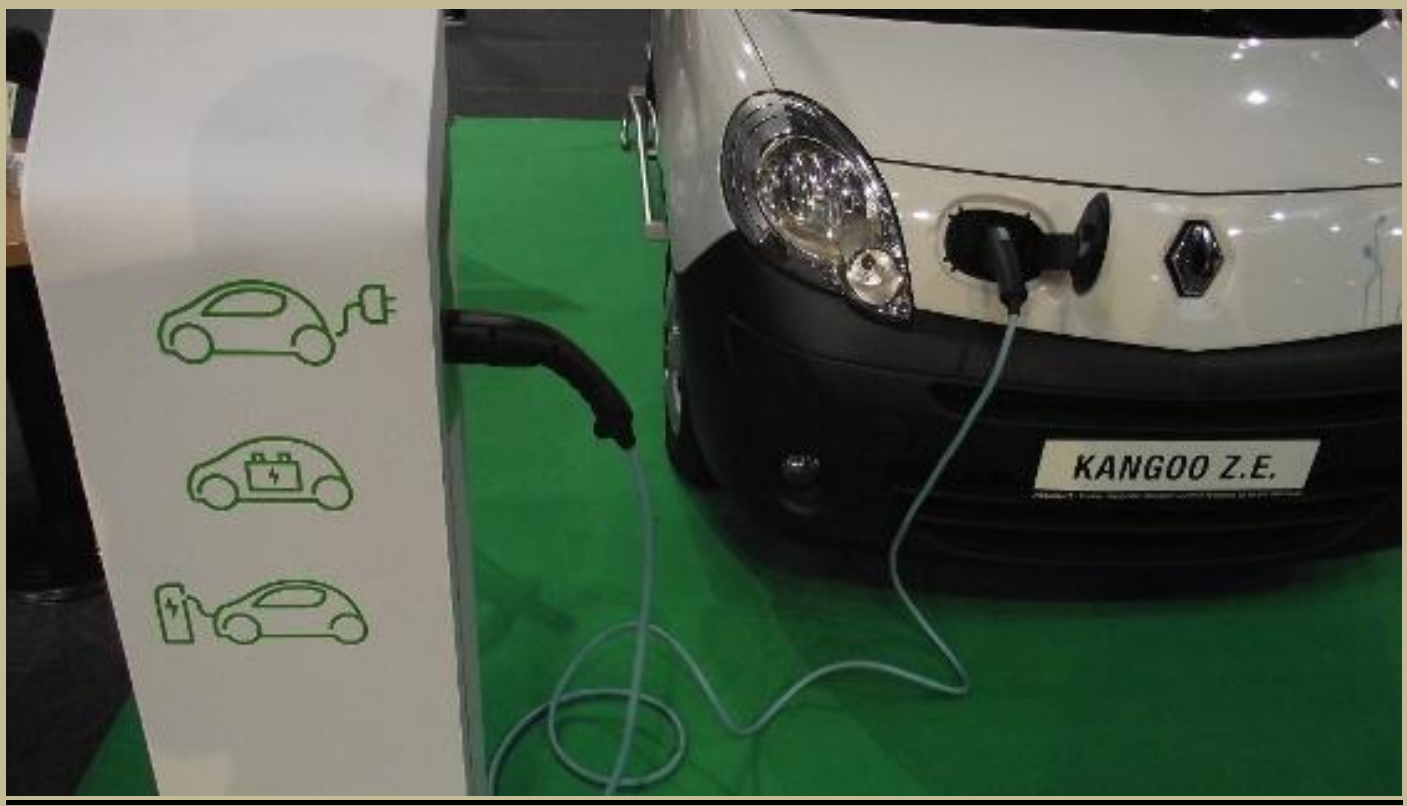
A Bright Future for Hybrids



Just a few years ago, hybrids were viewed with a mix of suspicion and awe. Some saw them as the car of the future. Others worried their lithium ion batteries would run out at crucial moments even though they had generators on board. In a short time, however, they caught on. Rising gas prices played a part. But so did improvements to their technology.

The first generator of successful hybrids were parallel hybrids. With an internal combustion engine that could work alongside the electric motor, the cars were reliable for commutes or long-distance trips. Improvements to their regenerative braking systems increased their ability to change on the go, and a continuously variable transmission has only added to their appeal.

Today, two new varieties of hybrids give us a glimpse go what's ahead. Plug-in hybrids are deceasing the dependency on an internal combustion engine. Another type, the two-mode hybrid, takes existing hybrid technology to the next level of efficiency. Both are selling well, which means the industry will almost certainly invest in creating even more powerful and effective hybrid technologies.

Get ready!

Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

1. How are hybrids different from other cars?
2. How popular are hybrid cars in your country?

Reading

Read the magazine article. Then, choose the correct answers.

1. What is article mostly about?

A. The evolution of hybrid technologies
B. Consumer responses to plug-in hybrids
C. Comparing two types of hybrids
D. Predicting future demand for hybrids

2. What initially worried consumers about hybrids?

A. Limited power
B. High costs
C. Inefficiency on highways
D. Reliability of batteries

3. What will likely happen according the author?

A. Three-mode hybrids will be developed
B. Companies will develop even batter hybrids
C. More hybrids will result in lower gas prices.
D. Cars will become completely electric powered

Vocabulary

Check (✓) the sentence that uses the underlined parts correctly.

___**A** When you charge a battery, it fills up.
___**B** A plug-in hybrid uses gasoline.
___**A** A lithium ion battery replaces the motor in some cars.
___**B** Some engines use a generator to make electricity.
___**A** A two-model hybrid has two electrical motors.
___**B** A hybrid has two different power sources.
___**A** A regenerative braking system is electrically powered.
___**B** A parallel hybrid has an electric motor and an gas-powered engine.

Write a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

A partially electrically powered car with a plug obtains electricity from a wall socket. _l_ _-_n _ _b_ _ _.

Some vehicles use a(n) electrical strage device to provide electrical power. _i_ _ _u_ _ _t_ _ _ _ .

Most hybrids use brakes that collect energy. _ _g_ _ _ _ _t_ _ _ _r_ _ _ _ _ _ _s_ _ _.

An electric and gasoline powered vehicle is most efficient when driving at higer speeds. _ _o-m_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _d.