

# Cars of the Future

## Will we have cars in the future?

In Science Fiction films, we often see alternatives to car travel in the form of **space shuttles** or even tele-transporters. In the near future, though, we will still see cars in our world but how will they be different to the cars we use today?



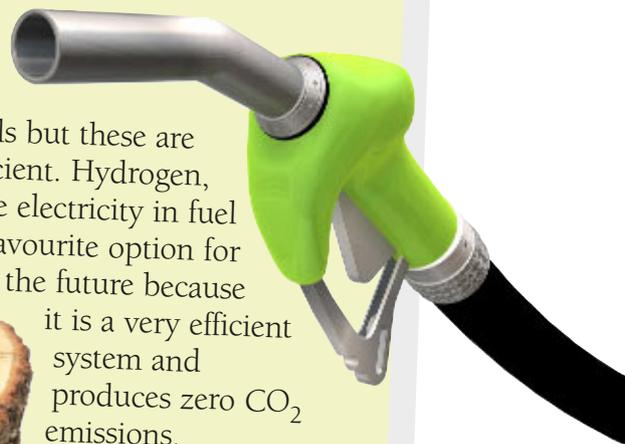
### Materials

**Steel** is traditionally used for modern cars but plastics, carbon fibre and wood **will** probably **replace** steel in the future. These materials are lighter than steel but incredibly strong and flexible so they can be shaped to **fit** the human form. They also **last** longer than steel and can be recycled. Cars which are 50% lighter use a lot less **fuel**.



### Fuels

Natural gas or methane is already used in some vehicles as an alternative to petrol or diesel and has low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Scientists can now dissolve vegetation like trees and crops like **corn** to make biofuels but these are not very efficient. Hydrogen, used to make electricity in fuel cells, is the favourite option for the future because it is a very efficient system and produces zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



- space shuttles** = navette spaziali
- steel** = acciaio
- will replace** = sostituiranno
- fit** = adattarsi
- last** = durano
- fuel** = carburante
- corn** = mais

glossary

1 Read the information about the cars of the future and complete the chart below.

### Cars Today

Materials: .....

Fuels: petrol, .....

Typical CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 140g/km

Typical weight: 1,200 kg

### Cars Tomorrow

Materials: .....

Fuels: .....

Typical CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 120g/km - 0g/km

Typical weight: .....

### English Humour

When do you go on red and stop at green?  
When you're eating a water melon!





## Car Design

Traditionally, cars are designed by men but recently more women are contributing to car design too and introducing different priorities.

lounge = soggiorno  
foam = schiuma  
jelly = gelatina  
gull-wing = ala di gabbiano  
seat cushions = cuscini del sedile  
launched = ha lanciato

glossary



3

### YCC Design Team

At Volvo, our team for the YCC car is all female. Our idea is to have a car which ..... utility, function and ..... The **gull-wing** doors are easy to use with ..... and shopping and the exchangeable **seat cushions** change the ..... of the car interior in two minutes.



2

### Raquel Aparicio Lopez, Spanish designer

With "soft vehicle", my idea is that softer cars are ..... The material is **foam** and there aren't any ..... The seats are surrounded by **jelly** balls to absorb .....



### A Car of the future which was never made

In 1958 Ford **launched** its concept car, the Ford Nucleon. Yes! It was powered by a small nuclear generator.



2 Listen to the female car designers and complete the texts above with the missing words.

children - interior - look - safer - impact - fun - accessories - doors - combines

3 Write about what you think will be the most important changes in car design in the next 10 years. Use these adjectives: **bigger** - **smaller** - **lighter** - **cheaper** - **more economical** - **recyclable**.

4 Work in pairs. In your opinion, why was the Ford Nucleon never produced? Talk about other technologies that never really worked to power vehicles.