# High-mileage EVs outperform petrol in MOTs

LEVEL B1


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## I. WARM-UP

1. What do you check first when buying a used car?
2. Do you trust high-mileage cars? Why or why not?
3. What costs worry you most with a used car?

## II. KEY VOCABULARY

**reliable**
able to be trusted to work well over time

**mileage**
the number of miles a vehicle has driven

**fail**
to not pass a test or standard

**consultancy**
a company that gives expert advice for a fee

**leasing**
using something for a set time by paying regular fees

**tyre**
the rubber cover around a wheel

**corrosion**
slow damage caused by rust or a chemical reaction

**roadworthiness**
being safe and legal to drive on public roads

## III. READING

High-mileage electric cars appear more reliable than petrol ones, a UK study says. New AutoMotive, a consultancy, analysed 47.4m MOT tests for the BVRLA. Between 90,000 and 120,000 miles, 16.5% of EVs failed, compared with 22.1% of petrol cars. Beyond 120,000 miles, 16% of EVs failed versus 23.5% of petrol.

At lower mileage, the gap was small. Many used EVs come from company and leasing fleets, so they often have high mileage. BVRLA chief Toby Poston said mileage alone should not put buyers off. Focusing only on mileage could make buyers pass over a good EV. The study also found weak spots for EVs, especially tyres.

EVs recorded nearly twice as many tyre defects. Some older, low-mileage EVs had more friction-brake issues, likely from corrosion. MOTs check roadworthiness — brakes, tyres, suspension, steering and lights — but not battery health. Buyers should review a car's history, condition, tyres and battery health.

*Reading text adapted from reporting by* **The Guardian***: "High-mileage electric cars are more...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

## IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who carried out the study and for which organisation?

2. What were the EV and petrol failure rates at 90,000–120,000 miles?

3. What happened to failure rates beyond 120,000 miles?

4. In which areas did EVs perform worse than petrol cars?

5. What do MOT tests check, and what do they not measure?

## V. DISCUSSION

1. Would you consider a high-mileage EV? Why or why not?

2. What used-car checks are most important to you?

3. Should sellers show battery health on used EVs?

4. How could your city support reliable used EVs?

## VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

**Second conditional**

Use If + past simple ... would + base verb to talk about unreal or unlikely present/future situations. The if-clause uses a past form and the result clause uses would + verb.

*"If buyers* **judged** *only mileage, they* **would miss** *good EVs."*

*"If a leasing firm* **offered** *more checks, customers* **would feel** *safer."*

## VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

**Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.**

1. If drivers (prefer) ___ low running costs, they would choose EVs. _____
2. If EV tyres (last) ___ longer, owners would spend less. _____
3. If companies (sell) ___ more used EVs, prices would fall. _____
4. If petrol cars (have) ___ fewer faults, they would pass more MOTs. _____
5. If buyers (want) ___ longer warranties, dealers would include them. _____

# Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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## I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12 minutes reading, 10 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10–12 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach or check: MOT (UK vehicle test), mileage, consultancy, leasing, tyre, corrosion, roadworthiness.
- Run the reading in two passes: gist first, then figures and names. Pair-check answers before brief whole-class feedback to lower number stress around percentages.
- Differentiation: stronger students extract two extra data points from the text (names, percentages, or test items) to summarise; others underline where each answer was found.

## II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Ask for one reason and one worry; then pair students with different views.
2. Board a checklist from student ideas and have pairs rank their top three.
3. Elicit pros and cons, then ask what proof (report, app data) would convince them.
4. Have groups suggest one simple policy each, then compare feasibility and cost.

## III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

**Survey:** In groups, design five yes/no questions about buying a used EV and poll the class; report the results in two minutes.

**Writing:** In pairs, write a 70-word buyer's guide for checking a used EV before purchase, using facts from the text.

## IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

**Comprehension questions:** short factual answers from the text.

**Grammar exercise:** Second conditional

**Discussion:** open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

# Answer Key

**TEACHERS ONLY**

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## IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who carried out the study and for which organisation?
   New AutoMotive did it for the BVRLA.
2. What were the EV and petrol failure rates at 90,000–120,000 miles?
   EVs failed at 16.5% and petrol cars at 22.1%.
3. What happened to failure rates beyond 120,000 miles?
   16% of EVs failed versus 23.5% of petrol cars.
4. In which areas did EVs perform worse than petrol cars?
   Tyres, and some friction-brake issues on older low-mileage EVs.
5. What do MOT tests check, and what do they not measure?
   They check brakes, tyres, suspension, steering and lights, but not battery health.

## V. DISCUSSION

**Open answers.** Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

## VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

**Key point:** Use If + past simple ... would + base verb to talk about unreal or unlikely present/future situations. The if-clause uses a past form and the result clause uses would + verb. (Examples constructed.)

> *"If buyers* **judged** *only mileage, they* **would miss** *good EVs."*
>
> *"If a leasing firm* **offered** *more checks, customers* **would feel** *safer."*

## VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. If drivers ___ low running costs, they would choose EVs. **preferred**
2. If EV tyres ___ longer, owners would spend less. **lasted**
3. If companies ___ more used EVs, prices would fall. **sold**
4. If petrol cars ___ fewer faults, they would pass more MOTs. **had**
5. If buyers ___ longer warranties, dealers would include them. **wanted**