

Automotive History and Milestones

Automotive Technology · Answer Key · 19 Questions

1. Who is widely credited with inventing the first practical automobile powered by an internal combustion engine, patented in 1886?

- A) Henry Ford
- B) Karl Benz**
- C) Rudolf Diesel
- D) Gottlieb Daimler

2. The Ford Model T, introduced in 1908, is famous for revolutionizing automobile production. What innovative manufacturing technique did Henry Ford heavily popularize for the Model T?

- A) Robotic assembly lines
- B) Mass production via the moving assembly line**
- C) 3D printing of components
- D) Just-in-time inventory management

3. What was the primary fuel source for the earliest successful automobiles, often referred to as horseless carriages?

- A) Electricity
- B) Steam
- C) Gasoline (petrol)**
- D) Diesel

4. The first successful transatlantic automobile voyage was completed in 1908. Which country was the automobile from?

- A) United States**
- B) France
- C) Germany
- D) United Kingdom

5. The development of the diesel engine by Rudolf Diesel in the late 19th century offered a significant alternative to gasoline engines. What is the fundamental difference in its ignition system compared to a gasoline engine?

- A) It uses spark plugs for ignition.
- B) It relies on compression heat for ignition.**
- C) It uses a glow plug to initiate combustion.
- D) It employs a catalytic converter for ignition.

6. Which American automotive company, founded in 1903, was a pioneer in mass-producing affordable cars, including the Model T?

- A) General Motors
- B) Chrysler
- C) Ford Motor Company**
- D) Dodge

7. The invention of the electric starter motor by Charles Kettering in 1911 eliminated the need for manual hand-cranking. Which automotive company first offered it as standard equipment?

- A) Ford
- B) Cadillac**
- C) Chevrolet
- D) Dodge

8. In the early days of automobile racing, which event, first held in 1911, became a legendary test of endurance and speed?

- A) Le Mans 24 Hours
- B) Monaco Grand Prix
- C) Indy 500**
- D) Daytona 500

9. The development of front-wheel drive (FWD) as a mass-market feature is often attributed to the Cord L-29. Which decade saw its significant introduction in American cars?

- A) 1920s**
- B) 1930s
- C) 1940s
- D) 1950s

10. Which iconic American automobile manufacturer introduced the first mass-produced car with an automatic transmission (the Hydra-Matic) in 1939?

- A) Ford
- B) Chrysler
- C) General Motors (Oldsmobile)**
- D) Packard

11. The concept of the 'unibody' construction, where the body and chassis are integrated into a single structure, became more prevalent in the mid-20th century. Which car is often cited as an early example of this design in mass production?

A) Volkswagen Beetle

- B) Citroën DS
- C) Chevrolet Corvair
- D) Ford Thunderbird

12. The first production car with power steering was offered by which manufacturer in 1951?

A) Chrysler

B) Cadillac

- C) Ford
- D) Nash

13. Which Japanese automaker, founded in 1937, became a global leader by focusing on reliable and fuel-efficient vehicles, exemplified by models like the Corolla?

A) Nissan

B) Honda

C) Toyota

D) Mazda

14. The first car with airbags as standard safety equipment was the Oldsmobile Toronado in 1974, but this was only for the driver. Which car manufacturer was the first to offer both driver and passenger airbags as standard equipment in 1988?

A) Volvo

B) Mercedes-Benz

C) Ford

D) Buick

15. The invention of the catalytic converter in the late 1960s and early 1970s was a major step in reducing vehicle emissions. Which country mandated its use first on a wide scale?

A) Germany

B) Japan

C) United States

D) United Kingdom

16. What was the primary goal of the 'Gas Guzzler Tax' introduced in the United States in 1978?

- A) To fund road construction
- B) To encourage the purchase of more fuel-efficient vehicles**
- C) To penalize manufacturers of large engines
- D) To subsidize the development of alternative fuels

17. The development of Anti-lock Braking Systems (ABS) began in the 1920s, but widespread adoption in passenger cars occurred later. Which decade saw ABS become a common safety feature in many new vehicles?

- A) 1970s
- B) 1980s
- C) 1990s**
- D) 2000s

18. The first mass-produced electric car in the modern era, the EV1, was introduced by which manufacturer in 1996?

- A) Toyota
- B) Nissan
- C) General Motors**
- D) Ford

19. The first hybrid vehicle to achieve significant commercial success and widespread popularity was the Toyota Prius. What year was it first introduced globally?

- A) 1990
- B) 1997**
- C) 2000
- D) 2005