

Getting a Car

by J. Folta



As the head of a family, I have many decisions to make about how my husband and I spend our money. We need to figure out the way to get the most out of what we make at our jobs. Currently, my family is trying to decide whether or not to get a car. There are many different factors involved in making this decision.

My family includes three people: me, my husband, and our son. Both my husband and I work during the week. I am a doctor, and he is a teacher. We both work near our house and need to get to our offices in the morning and come back home at night. Our son goes to school every day and plays sports and sees his friends after school. A car would help us get to all these places quickly and easily.

For a while now, we have been taking buses to travel. This was fine before my son went to school. Taking a bus does not cost very much money. Buying a bus pass is less expensive than paying for gas for a car. Cars also need to be repaired and maintained, which costs money too. Riding the bus is hard, though, because we do not have personal control over it. The bus travels on its set route, and it is sometimes late or slow. It doesn't run all the time, especially at night. Riding the bus makes it hard to change our plans.

So we are thinking about getting a car. How do we choose what kind of car to get? And how do we get it? We have a few options. One is to lease a car, which means to rent it for a period of time. This is good because it is a little cheaper than buying a car, and we won't have to own it forever. But the downside is that the car won't be ours, and if we keep it for very long, it will

end up being more expensive than if we had bought a car.

The other option is buying a car, which we would have until the car stops working or we decide to sell it. If we buy a car, we will have to decide whether to get a new or used car. A new car will probably be better than a used car and will last longer than a used car. It will be more expensive, though. A used car, on the other hand, may be cheaper, but it will probably not last as long. Also, a used car is usually more likely to break and need repairs, which could be very expensive.

The decision will have to come down to how much money we want to spend and how long we want to keep our car. We also need to consider what we will use the car for. Day to day, we need the car to get to and from work and school. We will also use it to run errands and do things like buying groceries, going to the doctor, or going out to eat at restaurants.

We also like to travel and visit our family, some of whom live far away. Visiting them can sometimes mean long trips, and we might want to take suitcases with us. This means that we will need a car that has enough space to carry our things. We also live in a place where it is rainy in the summertime and snowy in the wintertime, so we will need a car that can drive in rain and snow. If we got a car that would slide around or get stuck in bad weather, we would not be able to drive at all if the weather were bad. This would be bad for us, as we want to drive at any time that we need to.

Whether we decide to lease or buy, choose new or used, we will have a car to drive. As a family, we need to weigh our options and decide what is best for us.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is the author's family trying to decide?
 - A. what color of car to buy
 - B. what model of car to buy
 - C. if they can afford a car
 - D. whether or not to get a car

2. How does the author compare riding the bus and driving a car?
 - A. riding the bus is cheaper than driving a car
 - B. riding the bus is more reliable than driving a car
 - C. riding the bus gives you more control than driving a car
 - D. riding the bus is faster than driving a car

3. When riding the bus, you do not have control over where the bus picks you up or drops you off. What evidence from the passage supports this conclusion?
 - A. The bus can be late and slow.
 - B. Taking the bus does not cost very much.
 - C. The bus travels on a set route.
 - D. The bus does not run all the time.

4. Which person would be most likely to buy a used car?
 - A. someone who wants a car that won't break
 - B. someone who is on a tight budget
 - C. someone who wants the newest technology
 - D. someone who has a lot of money to spend

5. What is this passage mostly about?
 - A. factors a family must consider when getting a car
 - B. why new cars are more reliable than used cars
 - C. reasons for leasing a car instead of buying one
 - D. the benefits and drawbacks of riding the bus

6. Read the following sentences: "Whether we decide to lease or buy, choose new or used, we will have a car to drive. As a family, we need to **weigh our options** and decide what is best for us."

What does "**weigh our options**" mean?

- A. put the options on a scale
- B. make a quick decision
- C. think about the options carefully
- D. ask for new options to think about

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

There are many different things to consider when choosing a car, _____ deciding between a new car or a used car, and buying or leasing a car.

- A. however
- B. thus
- C. similarly
- D. such as

8. What are the disadvantages of a used car?

9. What are the benefits of leasing a car?

10. Ben, Emily, and their daughter Claire want to get a car. They move frequently across the country, so they do not plan to keep the car for a long time. They want a car that will be reliable and will not break down.

What kind of car would best suit this family's needs: new or used, leased or bought? Explain your answer using details from the passage.

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8. What are the disadvantages of a used car?

The disadvantages of a used car are 1) it will likely not last as long and 2) it is more likely to break down and need costly repairs.

9. What are the benefits of leasing a car?

The benefits of leasing a car are 1) you do not have to own the car forever, and 2) it can be less expensive than buying a car in the short term.

10. Ben, Emily, and their daughter Claire want to get a car. They move frequently across the country, so they do not plan to keep the car for a long time. They want a car that will be reliable and will not break down.

What kind of car would best suit this family's needs: new or used, leased or bought? Explain your answer using details from the passage.

Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage:

A new, leased car would best suit this family's needs. New, because they want a car that is reliable and will not need repairs; Leased, because they do not plan to keep the car for a long time and can return it when they move again.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a meaning of the word **factor**?

- A. a mistake
- B. influence
- C. this night

2. What is another meaning of the word **factor**?

- A. the ripened reproductive body of a seed plant
- B. anything that contributes causally to a result
- C. a dairy product used in cooking or as a spread

Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.

3. But a lot of it depends on many different _____.

- A. factor
- B. facts
- C. fact
- D. factual
- E. factors

4. When water is as hard to find as it is in the desert, this _____ might be the most important tool a camel has to stay alive.

- A. factor
- B. facts
- C. fact
- D. factual
- E. factors

5. Kids can get _____ by reading books.

- A. factor
- B. facts
- C. fact
- D. factual
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6. You can find _____ information from the words and pictures on a Web site.

- A. factor
- B. facts
- C. fact
- D. factual
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7. As a matter of _____, I don't like split pea soup myself.

- A. factor
- B. facts
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8. Please write your own sentence using the word **factor**.

9. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word **factor** so that you can use it when you write or speak?

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- A. reach a destination
- B. think about carefully
- C. let fall to the ground

2. What is another meaning of the word **consider**?

- A. give a description of
- B. look at attentively
- C. look attentively

Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.

3. However, in space it is _____ extremely close.

- A. considerations
- B. considerably
- C. consideration
- D. considerable
- E. consider
- F. considered
- G. considering

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5. The cedar may be soft compared with other wood but the carver still needs to have _____ skill.

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6. A second major design _____ is good appearance.

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7. Officials are _____ spending about \$1 million on Chinese programs in schools.

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8. The 13 states varied _____ in size and in population.

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9. Name five main _____ in selecting a package.

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10. Please write your own sentence using the word **consider**.

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1. What is a meaning of the word **option**?

- A. one of the choices which can be made
- B. the seventh and last day of the week
- C. fabric with a smooth, glossy surface

2. What is another meaning of the word **option**?

- A. the quality of being sensitive
- B. the freedom or right to choose
- C. a lack of adequate nourishment

Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.

3. He really didn't have a lot of _____.

- A. option
- B. options

4. He decided to _____ the property.

- A. option
- B. options

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