

# How to Jump Start a Car



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# Battery Basics I

- ✱ The battery provides electrical power to help start the car
- ✱ A battery is good for about 4-5 years
  - ✱ After that you are risking trouble
- ✱ Green ball indicator
  - ✱ Rough indicator that the battery is OK
- ✱ 12.2-12.6 volts is the good range for most batteries
  - ✱ Below 12 volts is probably trouble

# Battery Basics II

- ✦ The battery has a positive and a negative terminal
  - ✦ The positive terminal = red cable = “+” sign
  - ✦ The negative terminal = black cable = “-” sign
- ✦ Battery cables should be connected firmly to the terminals
- ✦ Terminals and battery clamps should be relatively clean
- ✦ Batteries can be dangerous



# Inspect the battery physically



# Use secure cables



# Before You Begin

- ✴ Be sure to have jumper cables!
- ✴ Bring “jumper” car close to the car with the dead battery
  - ✴ Cars should not be touching!
  - ✴ The jumper cables should be relatively clean
- ✴ Turn off cars and all accessories on both cars
- ✴ If you can, measure the battery voltage



# Park working car in front of dead battery car



**Turn off functional car battery.**





# Think Positively

- ✴ First identify the positive post on each battery
  - ✴ The positive post usually has a “+” sign on it (or red cable)
- ✴ The safest battery is the dead battery
  - ✴ So start there
  - ✴ Put the red clamp on the + post of the dead battery
  - ✴ Then put red clamp at the other end on the + post of the good battery

# Note terminals positions (Positive and Negative)



**Connect both ends of  
jumper cables on the same  
signs of both batteries**





# Halfway there!

- ✱ + is done
- ✱ While you are at the good battery, attach the black clamp to the negative (-) post
- ✱ Attach black clamp at the other end to a solid metal part of the dead car's engine away from the battery
- ✱ Start the good car!

Solid metal part of the dead car's engine



**Start charged battery's car engine.**





# Finishing up!

- ✴ Rev up the “jumper” car a little bit (to get the alternator running)
- ✴ Let the car fast idle for about 30 seconds or so
  - ✴ If the battery is super dead it needs a little extra charge
- ✴ Start the dead car!
- ✴ Reverse the process to release the clamps (-D → -G → +G → +D)

# Things to Watch For

- ✱ Battery voltage is below 9.5 volts or no green ball
  - ✱ Might be better to charge it separately
- ✱ High-voltage starting kits may cause the voltage to go above 17 volts which can damage electronics/computers in car
- ✱ Find out why the battery died
  - ✱ Lights
  - ✱ Wiring, loose fan belt, diode in the alternator, bad grounds, bad battery cable connection...



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