

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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