

Top 10 cars sold in April in UK & USA

Today let's talk about cars. It's a topic we all like to discuss with our friends - so why not in an English lesson? Car sales statistics for April 2012 have recently been published so I thought it a good idea to compare the UK and USA figures. The UK figures do, I believe, represent the number of vehicles registered in April rather than those actually sold.

Topping the UK list in April was the Ford Fiesta with 8,780 sold. Coming in at number two with 6,184 sold was the Vauxhall Corsa. Vauxhall, I should add, in most parts of the world is known as Opel. In third place was the Ford Focus with 5,491 sold. New car registrations in April in the UK took their third and highest climb of the year, climbing 3.3%, according to figures from SMMT. Year-to-date, new vehicle sales in the UK are up 1.4%. The best news for April relates to private non-fleet registrations which jumped nearly 15%.

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In the States, car sales figures show the first quarter of 2012 has been unexpectedly strong. Topping the list in April 2012 was the Ford F-Series with 47,453 sold. Second was the Toyota Camry with 36,820 sold. Camry sales shot up over 21% year-on-year. The surging Honda Civic climbed 26% to 35,385 helping the car take third place in April.

It is interesting to see Japanese cars taking six out of ten places in the American top ten. The only US domestic models to make it into the top 10 were the Chevrolet Malibu and the Ford Fusion. Detroit's pickup trucks gained some sales in April, as combined sales for the Ford F-Series, Chevrolet Silverado and Chrysler's Ram trucks increased by 7.4%.

Category: Cars / Car sales / top ten

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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Top 10 cars sold in April in UK & USA – 10th May 2012

Top 10 cars sold in the UK in April

- 1) Ford Fiesta – 8,780
- 2) Vauxhall Corsa – 6,184 (Known in Europe as an Opel Corsa)
- 3) Ford Focus – 5,491
- 4) Vauxhall Astra – 4,684 (Known in Europe as an Opel Astra)
- 5) BMW 3 Series – 3,737
- 6) Volkswagen Golf – 3,600
- 7) Volkswagen Polo – 3,579
- 8) Nissan Qashqai – 2,990
- 9) Vauxhall Insignia – 2,751 (Known in Europe as an Opel Insignia)
- 10) Fiat 500 – 2,600

Top 10 cars sold in the USA in April

- 1) Ford F-Series – 47,453
- 2) Toyota Camry – 36,820
- 3) Honda Accord – 35,385
- 4) Chevy Silverado – 30,749
- 5) Toyota Prius – 25,168
- 6) Toyota Corolla/Matrix – 24,804
- 7) Honda Civic – 24,423
- 8) Honda CR-V – 23,627
- 9) Chevrolet Malibu – 21,906
- 10) Ford Fusion – 21,610

EXERCISES

1. Favourite car: What is your favourite car? Go round the room swapping details with others.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. The article: Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) **Discuss the top 10 lists.**

6. Your favourite top cars: In pairs, from the lists choose your top five cars. Then add your top five cars that are popular in your country. Write them below. Discuss together. Compare your top 5 below with those sold on page 2.

From the list	Popular cars in your country
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

7. Let's roleplay 1: In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM radio* studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Worldwide car sales*.

1	Representative from your country's car sellers
2	Car journalist
3	American car maker representative
4	A car buyer

8. Let's think! In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **Car sales**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

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9. **Let's roleplay 2:** In pairs. You are in a pub with a friend. Start a conversation about: *Your favourite vehicles and what you look for when buying a car. 5-minutes.*

10. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Which car was No 1 in the UK list?
- 2) Which car came in at No 10 in the UK list?
- 3) On the USA list the No 1 car sold how many in April?
- 4) How many Japanese cars made the American top 10 in April?
- 5) What increased by 7.4%?

Student B

- 1) What are up 1.4%?
- 2) What slid 28% in April?
- 3) On the UK list what was last month's (March) No 10?
- 4) What vehicle tops the USA list in April?
- 5) What climbed 26% in April on the USA list?

11. **Types of vehicle:** In pairs explain the meaning of the following types of vehicle. Which is your favourite? Why? Discuss together.

Wagon	Sport-utility vehicles (SUVs)
Sports cars and sporty cars	Pickup trucks
Minivan	Luxury sedan
Medium sized sedans	Coupes

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

12. **Buying a car:** In pairs think of four things you look for when buying a car.

1 _____	3 _____
2 _____	4 _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

13. **Let's draw:** In pairs, groups or individually: Draw the inside and outside of a car on the board. Label it.

14. **Presentation:** In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: **My favourite cars.** Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation.

15. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **My favourite cars.** Your e-mail can be read out in class.

16. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) I love _____
- b) My favourite car _____
- c) My favourite sports car _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Which is your favourite vehicle?
- 3) Why is the Fiat 500 so popular in the UK?
- 4) What makes a Ford Fiesta the No 1 car in the UK?
- 5) Why do you think Vauxhall features three times in the UK top 10 in April?
- 6) Why does Toyota and Honda feature three times each in the USA top 10 in April?
- 7) Why is the Ford F-Series No 1 in the USA in April?
- 8) Would you buy a Ford F-Series? Explain.
- 9) Would you buy a Fiat 500? Explain.
- 10) What car do you drive? Why?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?
- 3) Which is your favourite car?
- 4) Which vehicle is the most popular currently in your country?
- 5) What do you look for when buying a car?
- 6) Which cars don't you like? Explain.
- 7) Compare the top 10 lists with the top 10 cars sold currently in your country.
- 8) Would you buy a 'Made in the USA' car? Why? Why not?
- 9) Are all American vehicles gas guzzlers? Explain.
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! Your top 10 vehicles

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

Your top 10 vehicles

Your top 10 classic vehicles (more than 25 years old)

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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(4)_____ the UK list in April was the Ford Fiesta with 8,780 sold. Coming in at number two with 6,184 sold was the Vauxhall Corsa. Vauxhall, I should add, in most parts of the world is known as Opel. In third place was the Ford Focus with 5,491 sold. New car registrations in April in the UK took their third and highest (5)_____ of the year, (6)_____ 3.3%, according to figures from SMMT. Year-to-date, new vehicle (7)_____ in the UK are up 1.4%. The best news for April relates to private non-fleet registrations which (8)_____ nearly 15%.

The Ford Fiesta was the best selling car in the UK for the third time in four months this year. Sales (1)_____ 30% in April. Overall, Ford sales (2)_____ 12% year-on-year. The Fiesta and third-best-selling Focus accounted for seven out of every ten Ford UK sales in the first four months of 2012. The BMW 3 Series (3)_____ the Golf in April. Golf sales (4)_____ 28% in April while the top selling BMW jumped 19%. Last month saw the Toyota Yaris at No 10. It is replaced this month by the Fiat 500. Starting price for the Fiat 500 is £9,960, making it cheaper than the other cars in the top ten.

In the States, car sales figures show the first (5)_____ of 2012 has been unexpectedly strong. Topping the list in April 2012 was the Ford F-Series with 47,453 sold. Second was the Toyota Camry with 36,820 sold. Camry sales (6)_____ over 21% year-on-year. The (7)_____ Honda Civic (8)_____ 26% to 35,385 helping the car take third place in April.

sales

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Shot up

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GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	slid	11	cheaper
2	discuss	12	unexpectedly
3	registrations	13	surging
4	statistics	14	climbed
5	should	15	domestic
6	trucks	16	outsold
7	gained	17	climb
8	which	18	figures
9	topic	19	jumped
10	recently	20	increased

LINKS

<http://blogs.cars.com/kickingtires/2012/05/top-10-best-selling-cars-april-2012.html>

<http://www.smartplanet.com/blog/transportation/the-10-best-selling-cars-of-april-2012/1626>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/transport/9245338/Top-10-best-selling-cars-in-April-in-pictures.html>

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Top 10 cars sold in April in UK & USA:

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