

# Title: Better Gas Mileage (Reading Comprehension & Writing)

<b>Objectives</b> Students will read and understand story about how to obtain better gas mileage with their automobiles.  Students will answer questions, write a summary, and compare and contrast what they would do with tips recommended in the reading.	<b>Time frame to Complete</b> 60 minutes
	<b>NRS EFL</b> 4

Stackable Cert.	Documentation	Technology	Study / Life skills	EL-Civics	Career Pathways	Police	Paramedic	Fire Rescue	Medical Asst.	EKG / Cardio	Phlebotomy	Practical Nursing	Healthcare Admin	Pharmacy Tech	IMT	AMT	HVAC	Welding	Other – Automotive	Mechanic	
X	X	X																	X		

## Standard(s) Addressed in Lesson

Read with Understanding  
 Convey Ideas in Writing

## Benchmark(s) Addressed in Lesson

- R.4.1 – Identify purposes for reading (for example, to generate and answer questions about a topic, to solve problems).
- R.4.5 – Use context clues (for example, cause & effect and compare & contrast relationships) to determine the meaning of words in texts.
- R.4.8 – Understand meaning of some specialized content vocabulary (for example, “constitution”).
- R.4.15 – Draw conclusions about text using knowledge of main idea(s) and supporting details, consistent with complexity of the text.
- R.4.16 – Construct meaning from text by evaluating relevance of prior knowledge and applying appropriate knowledge to new info. read.
- W.4.2 – Write for varying purposes (for example, to persuade, to explain, to entertain).
- W.4.3 – Write for varying types of tasks (for example, business letters, letters to the editor, job applications, literature responses, informational essays, informal writing).
- W. 4.14 – Write simple, compound and complex sentence structures based on the writing situation.

## Materials

Reading Comprehension story, “Better Gas Mileage,” available to be printed or to read online  
 Computer with Internet access  
 Pencil or pen

## Learner Prior Knowledge

Basic knowledge of automobiles and buying gasoline.

## Activities

Step 1 Introduce the topic of gasoline mileage by asking students the price of gasoline today. Discuss recent

gasoline prices. Ask if they know of ways to get better gas mileage.

- Step 2** Review vocabulary words found in the story:
- Mileage – the number of miles a vehicle can travel per unit of fuel
  - Hybrid car – a car that operates using both gas and electricity
  - Diligent – careful and hard-working
  - High octane fuel – fuel that requires a high amount of energy to ignite

**Step 3** Direct students to the website:  
<http://old.southwestabe.org/index.php/reading-skills-for-todays-adult/group-2-printable>

Look for Level 5.5 and choose the story, “Better Gas Mileage.”

Students may print story and the questions, or teacher may print them ahead of time.

**Step 4** Read the text and answer the 7 questions, then choose one of two options for the writing assignment at the bottom of the paper. Option A is to summarize the reading in student’s own words. Option B is to compare and contrast the tips that were recommended in the reading with what student does now to save money on gas.

**Step 5** Discuss the questions together as a class. Have a few students volunteer to read their writing assignment.

### **Assessment/Evidence**

Class discussion, completed worksheet.

### **Adaptations for Beginning Students**

Teacher monitors and checks for understanding. Clarify any words not understood.

### **Adaptations for Advanced Students**

Advanced students may search the Internet source (through Google) stated in the reading of the Federal Trade Commission’s Consumer Alerts’ webpage, “Good, Better, Best: How to Improve Gas Mileage” resource. Students may also do a Google search to find other website links that offer tips on better gas mileage.

### **Teacher Reflection/Lesson Evaluation**

Teacher asks if students learned anything and if they will try any of the ideas.

This lesson was created by Middletown ABLE.

# Better Gas Mileage

## Pre-reading

Questions: What do you know about this topic? What questions do you have?

Definitions: Mileage – the number of miles a vehicle can travel per unit of fuel

Hybrid car – a car that operates using both gas and electricity

Diligent – careful and hard-working

High octane fuel – fuel that requires a high amount of energy to ignite



## Reading

16 Frank is a thrifty person. He keeps detailed records of his income and expenses. He only  
33 buys things he really needs and uses coupons when he shops. He tries not to overspend. Despite  
52 Frank's best efforts, his cash flow is less this year than last year. The high gas prices have forced  
him to spend more than he had planned.

60 Frank would like to improve his gas mileage. Buying a hybrid or electric car is one option,  
77 but not for Frank. He does not have enough money for a down payment, nor does he want to make  
97 car payments. Besides, his car is still in good shape.

107 What are some other gas saving options? Frank decides to check online. He goes to  
122 *Google* and types in "better gas mileage." There are some helpful tips at the Federal Trade  
138 Commission's (FTC) Consumer Alerts' webpage. Frank reads their "Good, Better, Best: How to  
151 Improve Gas Mileage" resource.

155 There are a variety of suggestions on improving gas mileage while driving and maintaining  
169 your car. Frank learns that gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 miles per hour, so he  
187 begins to stay within the posted speed limits.

195 When Frank waits for a long train, he now turns off his car instead of **idling**. Idling wastes  
213 fuel, which costs money, and pollutes the air. He also removes things promptly from his trunk. An  
230 extra 100 pounds in the trunk can reduce a car's fuel economy by up to two percent.

247 Frank is diligent about car maintenance. The engine, tires and air filters are checked  
261 regularly. Tuning a car engine according to the owner's manual can increase gas mileage by an  
277 average of four percent. Properly inflated and aligned tires can increase gas mileage up to three  
293 percent. Replacing clogged air filters can increase mileage up to ten percent.

305 How about at the pump? Frank has often wondered about the high octane fuel. Would it be  
322 better for his car? Would it give him better gas mileage? The FTC claims that a higher octane gas  
341 offers no benefit. In fact, they say, "Unless your engine is knocking, buying higher octane gasoline  
357 is a waste of money."

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Level 5.5

## Understanding

1. Why did Frank's cash flow decrease?

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2. What does the word **idle** mean in this reading?

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3. What Internet search engine did Frank use?

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4. Which mileage tip appeared to have the greatest benefit?

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5. What gas mileage improvement option did Frank not use? Why?

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6. List one driving tip and one maintenance tip for better gas mileage.

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7. Where did Frank find the helpful tips?

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## Writing

Option A: Summarize the reading in your own words.

Option B: How do you save money on gas? Compare and contrast what you do with the tips that were recommended in the reading.

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