

THE FAMILY CAR

KEY MESSAGES

The goal of the Family Car ESL lesson is to communicate important environmental information to your students while at the same time offering you resources that are helpful in teaching English. We know that the comprehension level of your students varies greatly. Also, while some teachers use this lesson as part of a larger focus on the environment, others may not choose to do so. Here are the key messages that we hope every student will understand after participating in the Family Car lesson:

- Used motor oil and filters must be recycled. Any other type of disposal- in the trash, down a drain, on the ground- is illegal and is hazardous to human health and the environment. The fine for illegal dumping is up to \$10,000.
- Recycling used oil and filters is easy and free. Ideally, we hope that every student leaves the class with specific knowledge of a place where he/she can take oil and filters for recycling. At the least, every student should understand how to use the information provided to find the nearest recycling location.
- Used oil and filters must be handled properly to avoid spilling and to comply with the law. Oil should be stored in a plastic container with a screw-top. Filters should be transported in a sealed plastic bag.
- Now that students understand about recycling used oil and filters, we hope that they will be motivated to tell others in their communities.

OTHER USED OIL INFORMATION

Here are some other details that we would like students to know if time and ability permit:

- Take oil and filters to used oil recycling centers only when the centers are open for business. The majority of recycling locations are businesses or government-operated facilities that are open during regular business hours. Leaving oil after hours is considered illegal dumping and is subject to a fine.
- Never mix used oil with anything else, even water. If oil is mixed with fluids such as gasoline or antifreeze it cannot be recycled and must be taken to a hazardous waste facility.
- When changing oil avoid getting drips or spills on the ground or pavement. Clean up any spills with rags or an absorbent such as cat litter. A little bit of oily absorbent can go in the trash but a saturated rag or cleanup from a large spill should be taken to a hazardous waste facility.