

Once upon a time...

Before 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020

**15th century**  
Leonardo Da Vinci already creates the idea of a motorized engine, which can transport people without horses.

**1863**  
Jean-Joseph-Etienne Lenoir builds a "horseless carriage" that reaches a speed of 3 mph.



**1877**  
Nikolaus August Otto builds the four-cycle internal combustion engine - the prototype for modern car engines.

**1885**  
Karl Benz builds a three-wheel automobile powered by a gasoline engine.

**1896**  
Henri Ford builds his first automobile in Michigan.



**1887**  
Gottlieb Daimler uses his internal combustion engine to build a four-wheel vehicle - the first modern automobile.

**1900**  
First hybrid car by Lohner-Porsche.

**1914**  
First car body made entirely of steel.

**1911**  
Charles Kettering introduces the 'Electric starter'. Previously, all engines had to be started by hand cranking.

**1926**  
Merger of Daimler and Benz.

**1934**  
The 'Citroën Traction Avant' becomes the first successfully mass-produced front-wheel-drive car.

**1939**  
Air conditioning is added to cars.



**1950s**  
Cruise control is developed.

**1960s**  
Efforts begin to reduce harmful emissions, starting with the introduction of positive crankcase ventilation in 1963. PVC valves route gases back to the cylinders for further combustion. With the introduction of catalytic converters in the 1970s, hydrocarbon emissions are reduced by the end of the century by 95% compared to 1967.

**1966**  
The electronic fuel injection system is developed to deliver carefully controlled fuel and air to the cylinders to keep a car's engine running in the most efficient way.

**1970s**  
Airbags become standard and the car industry develops various safety systems.



**1980s**  
Production of "fuel-efficient" cars & creation of ABS (Anti-lock braking system).

**1990s**  
The Chemical Industry helps cut costs and improves efficiency by optimizing fuel consumption and making reducing emissions a priority.

**1992**  
The Energy Policy Act in the U.S. encourages alternative-fuel vehicles. These include automobiles running on a mixture of alcohol and gasoline, natural gas, or by a combination of conventional fuel and battery power.

**2000 and beyond**  
Innovative chemicals and plastics are developed for the modern car with polymers dominating. They help reduce vehicle weight and curb carbon dioxide output. Plastics prove to be hardwearing, aesthetically pleasing and safe.



**2009**  
Mercedes gives us the first hybrid vehicle - the S 400 Hybrid. Hybrid engines also used in F 700 and McLaren M/13.