

This quiz tests automobile awareness

SUMMER IS history. Now we're looking forward, more or less, to the cold winter ahead.

In the spirit of the season, here's a true/false quiz to test your auto awareness:

Questions

1. For better traction on ice or snow, "bleed" air from your tires. (T) or (F)
2. Headlight aiming is unnecessary with the new halogen lights. (T) or (F)
3. When the alternator warning light goes on, it could indicate your car needs a new drive belt. (T) or (F)
4. The average-size automobile engine develops enough heat to keep a five-room house comfortably warm during zero degree weather. (T) or (F)
5. When windshield wipers smear the glass, they should be cleaned off and coated with mineral oil. (T) or (F)
6. A squealing noise when you apply the brakes is not necessarily a sign that they need to be relined. (T) or (F)
7. One misfiring spark plug can

affect gas mileage by as much as 25 percent. (T) or (F)

8. A thumping sound from the front of the car usually comes from a bad tire. (T) or (F)

9. When filling the gasoline tank in cold weather, it's best to fill the tank to the top of the filler neck, just short of overflowing. (T) or (F)

10. The CV joints on a front-wheel-drive car should not wear out under normal driving conditions. (T) or (F)

Answers

1. False. Maximum tread contact and, therefore, best traction is achieved with properly inflated tires.
2. False. Any type of headlight can go out of adjustment due to vibration or body damage.
3. True. A worn or improperly adjusted drive belt can slip its pulley, causing low output from the alternator.
4. True. Metal temperatures inside the engine can reach 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Excess heat is dissipated by the cooling system.
5. False. Keeping windshield wiper

blades clean will improve their wiping ability, but stop right there. A film of wax or oil on the windshield or windshield wiper blades will cause smearing. Clean the edge of the blade and the glass with windshield washer solvent or a mild detergent. If the wiper still smears, replace the blade.

6. True. New semi-metallic brake linings tend to be noisy. However, if you're uncertain about the condition of your brake lining and pads, have them checked. The noise could be a signal that you're due for a brake job.

7. True. On a four-cylinder engine, when one spark plug isn't firing, the fuel in that cylinder is wasted.

8. True. The thump can come from a

flat spot or from a lump on the tire. Flat spots usually are caused by improper wheel balance or alignment. A blister or bulge may be due to tread separation, a potentially dangerous condition.

9. False. Overfilling the gasoline tank can cause raw fuel to enter the vapor recovery line that leads to the engine. This can result in hard starting and erratic operation until that fuel is burned off.

10. False. Although they can last much longer, constant velocity joints normally need replacement between 75,000 and 100,000 miles.

Scoring

9-10 right is excellent.

7-9 is passing.

Below that, brush-up on car care.

Keep up with maintenance

Continued from Page 8

will. Some new high-performance tires are unidirectional (made to roll in one direction), so make sure these tires are installed properly for the best performance.

Tire life can also be extended by applying protectant to the tire, usually in the form of a water-based silicone spray.

"Ozone, oxidation and ultraviolet radiation are your tire's worst enemies," Robinson said. "If you are going to use a protectant, make sure it is water-based and has no petroleum products in it. If the protectant has any fragrance, it probably has alcohol in it, and that is as bad for your tires as driving nails through them. Again, read the labels first."

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