

Classic car enthusiasts 古典车迷

Vocabulary: Classic cars 词汇: 古典汽车

Let me ask you a question: Have you got a car?

I own a small car: it's a Nissan Micra. I bought her seven years ago from a local **car dealer** here in London. Although I have been the owner of a Toyota Corolla, a Nissan Sunny and a Honda Accord, this little Micra is most **special**. It felt like **love at first sight** - the moment I saw her, I knew I had to buy her.

She wasn't cheap, in fact, quite **pricey** at £1,200 for a car that was already 13 years old, but I have no regrets, she is a lovely **reliable** car and she has never **let me down**. I do not drive every day: I am a typical Sunday driver, which means I do most of my driving at the weekends. Over the last seven years I have only driven 9,500 miles, whereas many drivers in the UK do around 12,000 miles per year.

Time passes quickly and my car will soon be 20 years old. Does that mean it is becoming a 'classic car'?

Here in the UK there are many classic car enthusiasts: these people own old cars and they spend many hours cleaning, **polishing** and **renovating** their beloved cars. A good friend of mine has a classic **sports car** but he has not driven it for many years - it spends most of the time in his **garage**. The car is a beautiful 1970 Lotus. It has been **re-sprayed** and now looks fantastic. He says it's **a labour of love** and he has promised to take me for a drive.

Really old cars, from the 1920s and earlier, are called **vintage cars**. They look very different to modern cars; the drivers sit very high up - and many of them do not have a roof. A lot of vintage car owners meet up for the **traditional** London to Brighton run. This is a 60-mile route from the centre of London down to the Brighton coast.

I saw some of the cars last year as they left London. Many of the drivers were wearing traditional clothing, **reflecting** a particular period of British history. Watching the cars go by was a wonderful **spectacle** and I'll join the **onlookers** again later this year. I hope it isn't raining, not just because I will get wet, but because many of the poor drivers have no **protection**.

Sadly, my little Micra isn't considered a classic yet. However, if I look after her well enough for long enough, maybe in another 30 years she will qualify as a classic item.

What cars do you like? I would be very interested to learn if anyone has a classic car and how much you love to **cherish** it. It's nice to own a new car but there is something very special about owning a classic car and keeping it going **year after year**.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分



A small, reliable car can be best

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. How much did the writer pay for her 13-year-old Micra?
2. True or false? *The writer drives her car every day.*
3. How would you classify a car from 1928?
4. True or false? *The London to Brighton car run is 60 miles long.*
5. Do you think the writer's Micra qualifies for the London to Brighton run?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Dan and Julie fell in love _____ first sight. They got married within three months of meeting each other.

with	on	at	in
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2. I can count on her for sure: she is very _____.

reliantant	relieable	reliable	reliant
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3. The New Year's Eve firework display was a true _____.

special	spectacle	splendid	spectacular
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4. The building is new but has a _____ feel to it.

classic	classical	class	classiness
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5. We are gathering here to _____ the happy memories of the past 70 years.

remind	spend	cherish	value
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. How much did the writer pay for her 13-year-old Micra? **£1,200**
2. True or false? *The writer drives her car every day.* **False. She is a Sunday driver.**
3. How would you classify a car from 1928? **A vintage car.**
4. True or false? *The London to Brighton car run is 60 miles long.* **True.**
5. Do you think the writer's Micra qualifies for the London to Brighton run? **No, because it is not a classic car.**

Exercise 练习

1. Dan and Julie fell in love **at** first sight. They got married within three months of meeting each other.
2. I can count on her for sure: she is very **reliable**.
3. The New Year's Eve firework display was a true **spectacle**.
4. The building is new but has a **classic** feel to it.
5. We are gathering here to **cherish** the happy memories of the past 70 years.

Glossary 词汇表

car dealer	汽车销售商
special	特殊的
love at first sight	一见钟情
pricey	价码过高的
reliable	可靠的
let somebody down	令人失望
polishing	擦亮, 抛光
renovating	翻新
sports car	跑车
garage	车库
re-sprayed	重新喷了漆的
labour of love	甘愿做的事
vintage cars	老爷车
traditional	传统的
reflecting	反映
spectacle	壮观的景象
onlookers	旁观者
protection	(防雨) 保护措施
cherish	珍视
year after year	年复一年地