

Auto Battery Safety Quiz



How much do you know about your car battery? Each year thousands of Americans suffer serious eye injuries because they don't know the proper procedure for jump-starting a dead battery. Take this quiz and find out how much you know about battery safety.

1. Maintenance-free auto batteries do not require regular check-ups. T F

2. Your jumper cables should be tested and approved by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). T F

3. The only equipment you need to jump-start a dead battery is a set of jumper cables. T F

4. Jump-starting an auto battery is simple if you know the proper safety procedures. T F

5. Never clamp the negative jumper cable to the negative post of the dead battery. T F

6. If battery acid comes in contact with your eyes, seek emergency medical attention right away. T F

7. When an auto battery explodes, flying battery fragments can cause a serious eye injury or blindness. T F

8. Prescription eyeglasses or sunglasses will protect your eyes when jump-starting a disabled car. T F



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Auto Battery Safety Quiz—Answers

- 1. False**

There is no such thing as a completely maintenance-free battery. Battery posts can corrode and the casing can crack, especially during the winter. Batteries should be inspected once a month.
- 2. True**

Jumper cables tested and approved by the Society of Automotive Engineers meet stringent safety standards. Look for the SAE symbol on the label.
- 3. False**

In addition to a set of jumper cables, every jump-start kit should have the following: splash-proof safety goggles, a flashlight for nighttime emergencies and a step-by-step guide for jump-starting.
- 4. True**

The best way to ensure you are following the proper procedures is to have jump-start instructions handy. Store a Prevent Blindness America jump-start sticker where you can find it—with the jumper cables, in the glove box or in the trunk.
- 5. True**

Attach the negative clamp on the dead vehicle to a good electrical ground such as the car frame, engine block or other unpainted metallic car surface. A spark could ignite gases from the battery.
- 6. False**

The first thing to do before seeking medical attention is to flush the eye for at least 15 minutes. The affected eye should be held open and flushed with the first available “drinkable” liquid: water, milk, juice or a soft drink. Note: do not bandage the eye. The doctor will want to flush the eye again and removing bandages can delay treatment and cause more damage to the eye.
- 7. True**

In a battery explosion, the battery casing can fracture, sending hundreds of pieces hurtling toward your eyes. Batteries also contain sulfuric acid which can severely burn delicate eye tissue, exposed skin and clothing.
- 8. False**

A pair of ANSI Z-87.1 safety goggles should be worn when working on an auto battery. Eyeglasses are not made to protect your eyes from flying fragments or acids that can get inside the gaps on the sides and top of the frames.

