**Electricity**

Today, we can use electricity to power some *vehicles*. These vehicles have to *contain* batteries that can store electrical energy, which is then used to power an electrical motor. They are called *plug-in* electric vehicles because they can be *plugged into* a *socket* to charge the battery. While they are more expensive to buy than others, the *fuel* is cheaper because these vehicles only *require* electricity to run. Furthermore, *plug-in* hybrid electric vehicles have a battery and an electric motor as well as a *combustion* *engine*. Therefore, these vehicles can run on both electricity (battery allows for a *driving range* of approximately 60 km) and *conventional* fuel. With the option of running on electricity, fuel costs and emissions of these cars can be *reduced* since electricity is cheaper and no emissions are produced. Furthermore, cars can be *charged* at any power *source* at home, at work and also overnight.

Electricity can be produced from primary energy sources such as nuclear energy, water, natural gas, wind energy, solar energy as well as oil and *coal*. This electricity, which we also use in our homes, can be used to *charge* the batteries in our cars. Coal and oil are *fossil sources* *of energy* which *pollute* our environment. The origin (renewable energy or fossil energy) of the electricity we use to charge our cars decides how *environmentally friendly* this alternative fuel is.

A *disadvantage* of electricity run vehicles is that they can only drive about   
160 km on a fully charged battery. This driving range is more reduced in extreme weather, when more of the electricity is needed to either cool or heat the car.

**Assignment**

*Read your article carefully and make a poster to present the information to your classmates.*

On the poster you should answer the following questions:

1. What is the alternative fuel presented in your article?
2. How can the alternative fuel be produced?
3. What are the fuels’ characteristics?
4. What are the environmental *advantages/disadvantages* of using this fuel?
5. Is the alternative fuel currently being used and how?