

# First Car DIMS - DOES IT MAKE SENSE?<sup>®</sup> Score

## Data Collection Worksheet

### PART 1: The Vehicle (Are you thinking new or used?)

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Make: \_\_\_\_\_

Model: \_\_\_\_\_

How will you pay for the car?

- Buy with cash (**most** first cars are used and bought with cash).
- Loan (some people borrow to pay for a used first car).
- Lease (very few first cars are new and/ or leased).
- Split the cost with parent(s) or guardian(s)

Vehicle price OR total of all lease/loan payments:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

If splitting the cost, how much will you personally contribute?

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Some lease or loan programs already include sales tax, title, and registration fees in the monthly payment. Check the details carefully so you don't count these costs twice.*

### PART 2: Initial/ One-Time Costs

*How is sales tax calculated on vehicles in your home state/ province?*

Local sales tax rate: \_\_\_\_\_ %

Estimated sales tax amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR  Included in lease/loan payment

Estimated title and registration fees: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR  Included in lease/loan payment

Required after-market equipment (if needed)

Snow tires: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

EV home charger: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other equipment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Inspection or mechanic review (especially for used cars)

Estimated cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Any other one-time costs: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### PART 3: Annual Insurance Cost

Estimated annual insurance cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be added to a parent or guardian's policy?

- Yes                       No                       Not sure

### PART 4: Annual Fuel/ Energy Costs

How much will you drive per year? \_\_\_\_\_ miles/ klm **(A)**.

*Hint: Think about how many miles or kilometers you expect to drive in a typical week. Multiply that number by 50 (you won't drive every week).*

**Complete ONE of the following:**

#### Gas vehicle: $A/B=C$ $C \times D = \text{Estimated Annual Fuel Costs}$

Advertised fuel efficiency (MPG or L/100km): \_\_\_\_\_

**Adjust the advertised fuel efficiency to make your estimate more realistic.**

- If using MPG, ↓ the advertised MPG by 15% (E.g.,  $30 \text{ MPG} \times 0.85 = 25.5 \text{ MPG}$ )
- If using L/100km, ↑ the advertised L/100km by 15% (E.g.,  $8.0 \times 1.15 = 9.2 \text{ L/100km}$ )

Your adjusted MPG or L/100km **(B)**: \_\_\_\_\_

Divide **A** by **B** to get **(C)** Gallons or Kilometres per year: \_\_\_\_\_

Local gas price per gallon or litre **(D)**: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Multiply **C** by **D** for your estimated annual fuel cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Electric vehicle: multiply or divide $A/E=F$ $F \times G = \text{Estimated Annual Charging Costs}$

**Calculate real-world driving efficiency (E):** \_\_\_\_\_

- If your vehicle's efficiency is expressed as **miles/km per kWh**, ↓ it by 15% to account for real-world driving (e.g.,  $3.57 \text{ m/kWh} \times 0.85 = 3.0$ )
- If your vehicle's efficiency is **kWh per 100 miles/ km**, ↑ it by 15% to capture real-world driving (e.g.,  $28 \times 1.15 = 32.2$ )

Calculate Annual kWh per year **(F)**: \_\_\_\_\_

- If E is miles/km per kWh → Divide A by E
- If E is kWh per 100 miles/km → Multiply A by E and divide by 100

Electricity cost per kWh **(G)**: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (usually between 25 and 35 cents)

Multiply **F** by **G** for your estimated annual charging cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### PART 5: Annual Maintenance and Operating Costs

Include things like oil changes, tire rotation, fluid top-ups, repairs and roadside assistance. Estimated annual total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **PART 6: Safety and Responsibility Plan**

*(Be ready to discuss with your parents.)*

How will you avoid texting & driving, drinking & driving, or driving high?

Will you commit to a parent-approved Driving Game Plan?

Are you happy to be the Designated Driver?

Do you understand how costly parking and speeding tickets can be?

## **PART 7: Financial Responsibility**

Who will pay for insurance?

- I will pay all
- I will pay some
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will pay
- Not sure yet

Who will pay for fuel or charging?

- I will pay all
- I will pay some
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will pay
- Not sure yet

Who will pay for maintenance and repairs?

- I will pay all
- I will pay some
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will pay
- Not sure yet

If you will contribute, how do you plan to pay for these costs?

- Job (Summer or part-time during the school year)
- Savings
- Allowance
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you work to help pay for these things and manage school?

- I believe I can.
- I'm not sure, but would like to try.