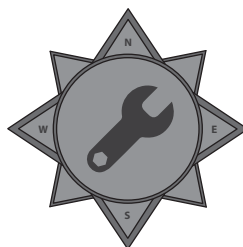


CHARGING A BATTERY

There will come a time when you are getting ready to go somewhere awesome. You're dressed up, plans are made, and just as you start the car, would you believe it, the engine won't start. A little investigation and you realize that you left the car lights on. What are you going to do? One solution is a jump-start as covered in a different discipline, but sometimes you'll have to resort to charging a battery.

For this, you will need a battery charger. If you have a car, this is an essential piece of equipment to have at home. These simple steps will get you back on the road, at least in a few hours anyway.

FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



EARN THIS NUGGET

To earn your Nugget, set up a safe battery-charging scenario, with the direction of a parent.

LEVEL 3

PERIOD 4

TASK 4

1. It shouldn't be necessary to remove the battery. In almost all cases they are accessible under the hood, but in a few odd cases the battery may be located somewhere else. Check the owner's manual or look online to locate it.
2. Make sure the battery terminals are clean; you need to be able to make electrical contact.
3. On some old style batteries, they are not sealed and can lose their liquid, in which case you need to top up the water in the battery with distilled water. Be very careful, because the liquid inside the battery is acidic.
4. Read the instructions on the charger carefully. Chargers vary from one manufacturer to another. Some will have a 6 volt and 12 volt setting (12 volt for cars, 6 volt might be for small motorcycles or lawn mowers).
5. Make sure you clip the charging cables to the correct battery terminal. Red to the positive, black to an unpainted part of the engine--perhaps an exposed nut.
6. Battery charging should be done in a ventilated area as it can produce harmful gases.
7. Connect the charger before plugging it in and turning it on. When finished, simply reverse this action by turning it off, unplugging it, and disconnecting the charger from the battery.

