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Subject: Re: What new car to buy (for me)

Posted by [Blazer](#) on Wed, 08 Aug 2007 02:08:55 GMT

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It's a common stereotype that "American cars are shit", and "foreign cars are better made". There is some truth in that many American car models are cheap cookie-cutter copies for the masses, and most have a poor track record when it comes to maintenance over time. In my experience most of the big-name foreign cars have well-built engines that last a long time, but the body panels are usually flimsy and easily damaged. American cars seem usually the opposite...strong bulky body panels, crappy engines.

The exceptions to the rule are usually trucks - American trucks seem pretty well made, durable, and retain their value. The other exception is higher-end sports cars like Corvettes and Vipers.

It's also common for American cars to have more "gadgets" and/or "useless features". For example the 2008 Dodge Avenger has a heated and cooled cup holder, as well as a "chill zone" for storing cold drinks...you won't find oddball things like this on a foreign car. It also has a 20GB media center which some other cars have, but not as many features.

When you get down to it, it all depends on what you are shopping for. A cars top speed is worth nothing but bragging rights, unless you drive on the Autobahn. If fuel economy is your thing, you should probably get a hybrid or even a motorcycle.

Personally I prefer styling, gadgets, and 0-to-100mph performance. I don't have hour-long commutes so I would rather my car be fun to drive, rather than needing ability to go 250mph, or last 20 years before it falls apart, or get 100mpg (okay that would be nice but dream on).

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