

CHANGE A CAR BATTERY

Once in a while, a car battery will die on you. It's annoying, and Murphy's Law tells us that it will be at the most inconvenient time imaginable. If your battery dies, and continues not to hold a charge, the chances are that you need a new battery. Now you could get it checked, because it could be some other car issue like a bad alternator that charges the battery, but either way, there is a good chance you'll have to remove the battery to find out. (Many car stores will test a battery for free).

So how are we going to tackle this issue?

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EARN THIS NUGGET

With the owner's permission, and observation, remove a car battery, inspecting the terminal and clean up as necessary.

LEVEL K

PERIOD 5

TASK 3

1. Lift the hood and find the battery (I should say that not all batteries are under the hood, so you may have to check your manual to find it.)
2. Check that the "positive terminal" is covered. This is a safety matter. Cars come with a "positive terminal" cover, if it doesn't, be very careful. You might even cover the terminal with a cloth. If you touch the red terminal of a live battery with a wrench and ground it (touch the "negative terminal" or a grounded part of the car, you'll get something a little reminiscent of the fourth of July.)
3. Loosen the nut that holds the negative terminal (typically black) and remove that connection from the battery.
4. Remove the positive terminal (typically red).
5. Now examine the terminals. If they are corroded, cleaning may be all you need to do. A wire brush and baking soda can do wonders. Rinse with water afterwards. If you were seeing a lot of corrosion, you may want to try the battery one more time before removing. It may just be a contact issue, in which case, reapply the terminals and tighten. (Petroleum Jelly can also help make a good contact).
6. Assuming you are still determined to remove the battery, it will be clamped to hold it in place, so the next thing you'll do is remove the clamping.
7. Now the battery can be removed, but be careful because they are heavy.
8. For reinstalling, reverse these instructions, and as mentioned in point 5, adding petroleum jelly to the terminals can keep a good contact.

