Jump-Start a Car Safely

Using jumper cables

1. Park and prepare

Park the working car close, without the cars touching. Turn both engines off and put on the parking brakes.

2. Red to dead +

Clip one red clamp to the positive (+) terminal of the dead battery.

3. Red to good +

Clip the other red clamp to the positive (+) terminal of the good battery.

4. Black to good -

Clip one black clamp to the negative (-) terminal of the good battery.

5. Black to metal

Clip the last black clamp to bare metal on the dead car, away from the battery. This is the ground.

6. Start

Start the working car and wait a few minutes. Then try the dead car.

7. Remove in reverse

Take the clamps off in reverse order. Never let the clamps touch each other.

8. Keep it running

Drive for about 30 minutes so the battery recharges, then have it tested.

Do not jump a battery that is cracked, leaking or frozen. Some cars have special jump points: read the manual.

Tip: If the car does not start after a couple of tries, call for help.

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