

Autotrader Names 10 Best Cars for Recent College Graduates

Safety, affordability aren't the only criteria that matter, experts say

ATLANTA, May 28, 2015 /[PRNewswire](#)/ -- For many, graduating college is a milestone like no other – it represents a new chapter, a proud accomplishment and, fortunately or unfortunately, financial independence. Luckily for graduates who are in the market for a new car to suit their post-college lifestyle, Autotrader's expert editors say now is a great time to make a purchase, as dealerships are flush with affordable models that are fun, fuel-efficient and thoughtfully designed.

"Any time someone goes through a major life change, such as graduating college, they need to determine if their current ride makes sense for their lifestyle, from both a financial and functional perspective," said Brian Moody, site editor for Autotrader. "For example, while that hand-me-down SUV from your parents was nice when you turned 16, you may want to opt for a safer, more fuel-efficient car as you transition into the working world."

Autotrader's picks for best cars for recent graduates include models that are not only affordable and fuel efficient, but also have desirable technology features and stylistic appeal. The list includes:

- 2015 Buick Encore
- 2015 Chevrolet Trax
- 2015 Honda Fit
- 2015 Nissan Versa Note
- 2015 Mazda3
- 2015 Jeep Renegade
- 2015 FIAT 500
- CPO Toyota Camry
- CPO Ford Fusion
- CPO Lexus IS

Recognizing that some new graduates will be lucky enough to receive a new car as a graduation gift, Moody advises parents to be cautious when shopping for a car for someone else.

"Make sure you're buying your son or daughter the car they really need and want, not just the one with the best fuel economy or the safety features you desire," said Moody. "Rather than surprising them with the gift, let them test drive a variety of models so they can determine their must-haves, which may be different from yours."

For more information on the editors' picks for best cars for graduates, visit: <http://www.autotrader.com/research/article/best-cars/239647/10-best-cars-for-recent-college-grads.jsp>

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