HOW TO CHARGE A CAR BATTERY
WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- Car battery charger
- Clean rags
- Gloves

HANDY TIPS

- It is worth taking the time to consider why the battery went flat. Were the lights or the radio left on, something that would obviously drain the battery? If not, there may be a fault with the battery or alternator so get to a garage as soon as possible to get it checked before it happens again.
First off, you need a battery charger but to know which one to get, you need to know what type of battery you have.

Cars with stop-start technology use a different type of battery from those without. For these batteries, you’ll need a smart charger, if not you should just need a standard charger.

Remember to take care as you’ll be using live electricity. Also, avoid running power cables outside and in damp or wet areas.

Check your car manual for any special requirements that it might have, and locate the battery. Most batteries are located at the front of the car, under the bonnet, however some cars have batteries in the boot.

Ensure your car is switched off, the handbrake is firmly applied and that there is enough space around the vehicle.

Pop the bonnet and make sure it’s safely propped up using the car’s bonnet rod.

To start with, there may be caps on the battery terminals that need to be removed first. A red cap and ‘+’ sign signifies that this is the positive terminal and a black cap with a ‘-’ sign signifies the negative terminal. Remember which is which.

Once the caps are removed, check the terminals for any dirt and rust. If there is some, then give them a wipe round with a clean rag. This is to ensure you get a good connection between the charger and the battery.
Remember the leads need to stretch from the electrical socket to the battery. It is preferable that the charger is as far away from the battery as possible. Never put the charger on top of the battery.

Take the red and black leads with the crocodile clips on the end and connect to the associated terminal on the battery, therefore the red lead clips onto the terminal with the red cap and ‘+’ sign while the black lead clips on to the terminal with the black cap and ‘−’ sign.

Ensure that the clips aren’t touching one another or any other metal when one or both are connected to the battery.

Now switch on the power at the mains. Your battery should now be charging. Check the battery charger manual to see how long it takes to recharge a battery and then set a reminder. You don’t want to leave the charger on longer than is required.

On the charger, there should be an indicator that shows when the battery is fully recharged. Once this is illuminated, simply switch off the charger from the wall and unplug.