Car Engines Explained

The four-stroke cycle—intake, compression, power, and exhaust—is the basis of most internal combustion engines. Air and fuel enter the cylinder, compressed by the piston, ignited for power, and expelled as exhaust. This process repeats rapidly to power vehicles.

Petrol engines use spark ignition, while diesel engines rely on compression ignition. Petrol engines are smoother and lighter, whereas diesel engines deliver torque and fuel economy, especially in commercial vehicles. Both have distinct advantages and drawbacks.

Forced induction technologies like turbocharging and supercharging increase engine efficiency and performance by compressing air into the cylinders. These advancements allow smaller engines to deliver higher power.

Electric motors differ fundamentally. They deliver instant torque, operate quietly, and rely on batteries. Hybrids combine both systems, allowing regenerative braking and improved efficiency.

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