

The Martian & the Car

During his first mission for the Martian government, Marvin the Martian was sent to Earth by the Martian government to find evidence of life. While on Earth, Marvin captured a car and brought it back to Mars. He thought he'd found a good example of life on Earth. The Martian government does not believe that the car Marvin brought back is alive; therefore, he must stand trial for failing to perform his Martian duties.



At the trial, Marvin spoke in his own defense.

"I first saw these life forms rolling along roads in great numbers. They were giving off thick clouds of waste as they moved. They seemed to move in herds, as many of the cars moved in the same direction in groups. They seemed to have a great deal of energy - some of them moved faster than 70 miles per hour! When one of these life forms stopped or slow down, the others behind it reacted. They slowed down and gave off a red light from the back, and sometimes they would make honking noises. I observed that they would often stop to feed on a liquid substance. I even found their birthing facility in a place called 'Detroit' where new individuals were born and carried off to nurseries for adoption."

Your task?

You work for a major newspaper, and have been asked by your editor to write up a pre-verdict prediction.

- **Predict** what both the prosecution (against Marvin) and defense (for Marvin) will say in their closing statements about the car's being alive.
 - **Prosecutors** would try to show why he was wrong
 - **Defense** would try to show how he was kind of close
- For the prosecution's argument, **dispute** how Marvin's testimony is wrong (that his observations are flawed). Instead, you will give an actual example of the characteristic of life and use it as evidence against Marvin's testimony.
- Use the chart to fill in what each will say about each characteristic

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Characteristic	Defense	Prosecution
Contains one or more cells		
Reproduction		
Growth and Development		
Maintain and use Energy		
Respond to Environment & Maintain Homeostasis		

