

Jump Starting

Practical skills

The order of connection, and why it matters.

Educational reference. Check your handbook — some vehicles must not be jump started.

1

Both engines off

Handbrakes on, cars not touching.

2

Red to dead positive

First connection.

3

Red to donor positive

Second.

4

Black to donor negative

Third.

5

Black to bare metal on the dead car

An unpainted engine bolt, away from the battery. Not the terminal.

6

Start donor, wait, then start dead car

Remove in exact reverse order.

WHY THE LAST CONNECTION

Charging batteries release hydrogen

A spark at the terminal can ignite it

Earthing away from the battery moves the spark elsewhere

Educational reference. Many hybrids and EVs must not be jump started conventionally — check the handbook first.