

Story 1925 (1995 Tape 4)

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The Cat Test for Automobiles

The American automobile industry agreed to provide a team of experts to inspect the quality of cars produced in other countries. They were charged especially with examining the insulation of cars to determine how airtight they were.

When the team visited a Japanese automobile plant, they saw a number of cats in one of the rooms. "What are you doing with so many cats?" one member of the inspection team asked.

The plant manager explained, "Every night we put a cat in one of each of the models of cars we had made on that day. On the following morning, we examine the condition of each cat locked in a car. If the cat is dead, then we know that that model is airtight. If the cat is still alive, it means that the model has a small leakage of air somewhere that we must correct."

The American team visited many countries, and they discovered that most of them used the same cat test they had seen in Japan. Therefore, when they found a number of cats in a Turkish

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automobile factory, they were not surprised. They said to the Turkish plant manager, "Tell us how your cat test works."

The manager said, "Every night we place a cat in one of each of the models we had made that day. When the next morning arrives, we check each of the cats. If the cat is still in the car, we know that our design is excellent. But if the cat has disappeared, we know that we have an insulation problem that needs correcting."¹

¹Manufactured items almost anywhere are likely to have flaws in their initial production. The first Turkish automobile appeared in 1961, and it often became the butt of humor. The first joke about it was made by Cemal Pasha, then President of the Republic of Turkey. Turkish cars are now excellent.