**Better Gas Mileage** (Marshall Reading 5.5)

**Mileage** – the number of miles a vehicle can travel per unit of fuel

**Hybrid car** – a car than operates using both gas and electricity

**Diligent** – careful and hard-working

**High octane fuel** – fuel that requires a high amount of energy to ignite

Frank is a thrifty person. He keeps detailed records of his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and expenses. He only buys things he really needs and uses coupons when he shops. He tries not to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Despite Frank’s best efforts, his cash flow is less this year than last year. The high gas prices have forced him to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ more than he had planned.

Frank would like to improve his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mileage. Buying a hybrid or electric car is one option, but not for Frank. He does not have enough money for a down \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, nor does he want to make car payments. Besides, his car is still in good shape.

What are some other gas saving options? Frank decides to check \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He goes to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and types in “better gas mileage.” There are some helpful tips at the Federal Trade Commission’s (FTC) Consumer Alerts’ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Frank reads their “*Good, Better, Best: How to Improve Gas Mileage*” resource.

There are a variety of suggestions on improving gas mileage while driving and maintaining your car. Frank \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 miles per hour, so he begins to stay within the posted speed limits.

When Frank waits for a long \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, he now turns off his car instead of idling. Idling wastes fuel, which costs money, and pollutes the air. He also removes things promptly from his trunk. An extra \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pounds in the trunk can reduce a car’s fuel economy by up to two percent.

Frank is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about car maintenance. The engine, tires and air filters are checked regularly. Tuning a car \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ according to the owner’s manual can increase gas mileage by an average of four percent. Properly inflated and aligned \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can increase gas mileage up to three percent. Replacing clogged \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ filters can increase mileage up to ten percent.

How about at the pump? Frank has often \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about the high octane fuel. Would it be better for his car? Would it give him better gas mileage? The FTC claims that a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ octane gas offers no benefit. In fact, they say, “Unless your engine is knocking, buying higher octane gasoline is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of money.”