

Our Point of View: Lexus HS 250h Causing Internet Buzz

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The internet is buzzing with Lexus HS 250h excitement and observations, and it has been reported that the HS 250h is a Lexus version of the Toyota Prius. That is far from the truth.

All Toyota and Lexus hybrids use the series/parallel hybrid system, but that's where the similarity ends between the Toyota Prius and the new Lexus HS 250h. So, let's look at some of the differences.

The HS 250h is based on the European Toyota Avensis platform and uses a 2.4-liter four-cylinder gasoline engine compared to the Prius, which is on another design platform and uses a 1.8-liter engine. The hybrid transmission, motor generators and electronic control systems are also different.

Specially designed for the luxury buyer, HS 250h has a double-wishbone rear suspension while the Prius uses torsion beam. All components of the front suspension are different too. The HS has more spot welding and has anti-vibration front and rear suspension members for a quieter and smoother ride.

Compared to Prius, HS 250h has premium standard and optional features including Remote Touch, Wide-view Front monitor, intelligent high beams, Heads-Up Display, Lexus Enform™ with Safety Connect™, a 40-gigabyte hard disk drive navigation system with Voice Command casual language voice recognition system, streaming audio via Bluetooth® and Mark Levinson® Audio Sound system.

In addition, as Lexus' first dedicated hybrid, HS 250h offers the Lexus customer experience, which includes Roadside Assistance, complimentary dealer loaner vehicles, valet parking at dealerships, and other benefits and services.

Compared to its competitors in the entry luxury sedan segment, HS 250h is priced thousands of dollars less. It has the best combined EPA-estimated fuel economy ratings, at 35 mpg, of any luxury or diesel luxury vehicle in the U.S. In addition, the HS 250h emits 70 percent fewer smog-forming emissions than the average new car and is eight times cleaner than any clean diesel.

Model	MSRP	City (mpg)	Highway (mpg)	Combined (mpg)
Lexus HS 250h	\$34,200	35	34	35
Mercedes E320 BLUETEC	\$54,200	23	32	27

So, when entry luxury consumers are looking for a vehicle that is technologically advanced, has efficient design with great fuel economy and driving dynamics, the Lexus HS 250h, is definitely the clear choice and provides more value for your hard earned dollar.