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2011 Toyota Camry compared with the 2010 Hyundai Sonata



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Safety

For enhanced safety, the front shoulder belts of the Toyota Camry are height-adjustable, and the rear seat shoulder belts have child comfort guides to move the belt to properly fit children. A better fit can prevent injuries and the increased comfort also encourages children to buckle up. The Hyundai Sonata has only front height-adjustable seat belts.

The Toyota Camry has Daytime Running Lights to help keep it more visible under all conditions. Canadian government studies show that driving with lights during the day reduces accidents by 11% by making vehicles more conspicuous. The Sonata doesn't offer Daytime Running Lights.

The Camry SE/XLE/Hybrid offers an optional backup monitor to help drivers see any and all obstacles behind their vehicle. The Sonata doesn't offer any parking assist system.

Both the Camry and the Sonata have standard driver and passenger frontal airbags, front side-impact airbags, head airbags, front seatbelt pretensioners, front wheel drive, height adjustable front shoulder belts, four wheel antilock brakes, electronic stability systems to prevent skidding and available traction control.

In a 31 MPH side-impact test, the [Insurance Institute for Highway Safety](#) crashes a 3300 pound sled into the side of new vehicles. In this test, results indicate that the Toyota Camry is safer than the Sonata:

	Camry	Sonata
Overall Evaluation	GOOD	ACCEPTABLE
Structure	GOOD	MARGINAL
Driver		
Head Protection Rating	GOOD	GOOD
Head Injury Rating	GOOD	GOOD
Torso Injury Rating	GOOD	ACCEPTABLE
Pelvis/Leg Injury Rating	GOOD	POOR
<i>Head Injury Criterion</i>	182	294
<i>Shoulder Movement</i>	41 mm	48 mm
Rear Passenger		
Head Protection Rating	GOOD	GOOD

Head Injury Rating	GOOD	GOOD
Torso Injury Rating	GOOD	GOOD
Pelvis/Leg Injury Rating	GOOD	GOOD
Head Injury Criterion	68	174
Shoulder Movement	16 mm	29 mm

Warranty

There are over 2 times as many Toyota dealers as there are Hyundai dealers, which makes it much easier to get service under the Camry's warranty.

Reliability

J.D. Power and Associates' surveys of the owners of three-year-old cars provide the long-term dependability statistics that show that Toyota vehicles are more reliable than Hyundai vehicles. J.D. Power ranks Toyota fourth in reliability. With 32 more problems per 100 vehicles, Hyundai is ranked 12th.

Engine

The Camry's optional 3.5 DOHC V6 produces 19 more horsepower (268 vs. 249) and 19 lbs.-ft. more torque (248 vs. 229) than the Sonata SE/Limited's optional 3.3 DOHC V6.

As tested in [Consumer Reports](#) the Camry Hybrid 2.4 DOHC 4 cyl. hybrid is faster than the Hyundai Sonata 4 cyl. (automatics tested):

	Camry	Sonata
Zero to 60 MPH	8.4 sec	9.8 sec
45 to 65 MPH Passing	5.1 sec	5.9 sec
Quarter Mile	16.6 sec	17.5 sec
Speed in 1/4 Mile	89 MPH	81.9 MPH

As tested in [Consumer Reports](#) the Toyota Camry 3.5 is faster than the Hyundai Sonata 2.4 (automatics tested):

	Camry	Sonata
Zero to 30 MPH	3.3 sec	3.5 sec
Zero to 60 MPH	7.1 sec	9.8 sec
45 to 65 MPH Passing	4.4 sec	5.9 sec
Quarter Mile	15.5 sec	17.5 sec
Speed in 1/4 Mile	97 MPH	81.9 MPH

Fuel Economy and Range

On the [EPA](#) test cycle the Camry Hybrid gets better fuel mileage than the Sonata Auto (33 city/34 hwy vs. 22 city/32 hwy).

On the [EPA](#) test cycle the Camry Manual with its standard engine gets better fuel mileage than the Sonata Manual 4 cyl. (22 city/33 hwy vs. 21 city/32 hwy).

Transmission

A six-speed automatic is available on the Toyota Camry, for better acceleration and lower engine speed on the highway. Only a five-speed automatic is available for the Sonata.

The Camry offers an available continuously variable transmission (CVT). With no "steps" between gears, it can keep the engine at the most efficient speed for fuel economy, or keep it at its peak horsepower indefinitely for maximum acceleration. The Sonata doesn't offer a CVT.

Brakes and Stopping

For better stopping power the Camry's standard brake rotors are larger than those on the Sonata:

	Camry	Sonata
Front Rotors	11.57 inches	11 inches
Rear Rotors	10.98 inches	10.3 inches

The Camry stops much shorter than the Sonata:

	Camry	Sonata	
70 to 0 MPH	170 feet	191 feet	<i>Car and Driver</i>
60 to 0 MPH	118 feet	134 feet	<i>Motor Trend</i>
60 to 0 MPH (Wet)	149 feet	152 feet	<i>Consumer Reports</i>

Suspension and Handling

For a smoother ride and more stable handling, the Camry's wheelbase is 1.9 inches longer than on the Sonata (109.3 inches vs. 107.4 inches).

The Camry's front to rear weight distribution is more even (57% to 43%) than the Sonata's (62.7% to 37.3%). This gives the Camry more stable handling and braking.

The Camry SE handles at .82 G's, while the Sonata Limited pulls only .78 G's of cornering force in a *Car and Driver* skidpad test.

The Camry SE goes through *Motor Trend's* slalom 2.8 MPH faster than the Sonata GLS (64 vs. 61.2 MPH).

The Camry SE executes *Motor Trend's* "Figure Eight" maneuver quicker than the Sonata SE (27.8 seconds @ .61 average G's vs. 28.6 seconds @ .55 average G's).

Chassis

As tested by *Car and Driver*, the interior of the Camry Hybrid is quieter than the Sonata Limited:

	Camry	Sonata
At idle	35 dB	40 dB
Full-Throttle	75 dB	77 dB

Passenger Space

The Camry has .4 inches more front shoulder room and .9 inches more rear legroom than the Sonata.

For enhanced passenger comfort on long trips the Camry XLE's rear seats recline. The Sonata's rear seats don't recline.

Servicing Ease

The Camry uses gas struts to support the hood for easier service access. The Sonata GL uses a prop rod to support its heavy hood. It takes two hands to open the hood and set the prop rod, the prop rod gets in the way during maintenance and service, and the prop rod could be knocked out, causing the heavy hood to fall on the person maintaining or servicing the car.

A maintenance reminder system is standard on the Camry to save the owner time and money by calculating maintenance intervals based on odometer mileage. This takes the guesswork out of keeping your vehicle in top condition and helps it last longer. Hyundai doesn't offer a maintenance reminder on the Sonata.

Ergonomics

The Camry offers a remote vehicle starting system, so the vehicle can be started from inside the driver's house.

This allows the driver to comfortably warm up the engine before going out to the vehicle. The Sonata doesn't offer a remote starting system.

The Camry's front and rear power windows all open or close fully with one touch of the switches, making it more convenient at drive-up windows and toll booths, or when talking with someone outside the car. The Sonata's passenger windows don't open or close automatically.

The Sonata's standard power locks don't automatically lock the doors. The Camry's standard doors lock when the transmission is engaged. This is an important feature for occupant safety. Locked doors are proven to open less often in collisions, and they are also effective in preventing crime at traffic lights. (The power lock's automatic feature may have to be activated by your dealer.)

The Camry has a standard automatic headlight on/off feature. When the ignition is on, the headlights automatically turn on at dusk and off after dawn. The Sonata only offers an automatic headlight on/off feature as an extra cost option.

A manual rear sun shade is standard in the Camry XLE to help block heat and glare for the rear passengers. The Sonata doesn't offer a rear sun shade.

Both the Camry and the Sonata offer rear vents. For greater rear passenger comfort, the Camry XLE/Hybrid has standard rear air conditioning vents to keep rear occupants cool in summer or warm in winter. The Sonata doesn't offer rear air conditioning vents, only heat vents.

Economic Advantages

Insurance will cost less for the Camry owner. *The Complete Car Cost Guide* estimates that insurance for the Camry will cost \$176 less than the Sonata over a five-year period.

The Camry will cost the buyer less in the long run because of its superior resale value. *Kiplinger's* estimates that the Camry will retain 57% to 63% of its original price after two years, while the Sonata only retains 44% to 50%.

According to *The Car Book* by Jack Gillis, the Camry is less expensive to operate than the Sonata because it costs \$198 less to do the manufacturer's suggested maintenance for 50,000 miles. Typical repairs cost much less on the Camry than the Sonata, including \$180 less for an alternator, \$119 less for a starter, \$14 less for fuel injection, \$405 less for a timing belt/chain and \$7 less for a power steering pump.

Recommendations

The Toyota Camry has won recognition from these important consumer publications:

Consumer Reports® Recommends
Kiplinger's Award

Camry	Sonata
TRUE	TRUE
TRUE	FALSE

Strategic Vision rated the Camry fifth among medium cars in owner reported satisfaction. This includes how well the vehicle performs and satisfies its owner's expectations. The Sonata was rated 13th.

Motor Trend selected the Camry as their 2007 Car of the Year. The Sonata has never been chosen.

The Toyota Camry outsold the Hyundai Sonata by over three to one during the 2009 model year.

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