

## Supersonic passenger jets could be flying by 2029

9th June, 2021



Supersonic passenger planes could return to the skies before the end of this decade. Supersonic means faster than the speed of sound. The speed of sound is Mach 1, which is 1,234.8kph. The US carrier United Airlines has plans to

buy 15 supersonic jets from a company called Boom Supersonic. The planes will fly up to 88 passengers in an all-business class service. They will fly at a top speed of Mach 1.7. This is 2,099kph. Most modern passenger jets have a cruising speed of just over 1,000kph. The new planes could greatly cut the time it takes to fly around the world. Passengers could fly from London to New York in under four hours. It currently takes around 7 1/2 hours to do that journey.

The jets ordered by United Airlines are called Overture. They will be the first supersonic jets to make commercial flights since Concorde stopped operating in 2003. Concorde was jointly operated by British Airways and Air France. The cost of Overture tickets will be roughly the same as regular business class tickets. The price of a Concorde ticket was over 20 times higher than economy class tickets, which meant only the super-rich could afford one. Boom's CEO said Overture will have much better fuel efficiency and profitability than Concorde. Flights will be net-zero carbon and will use sustainable aviation fuel. The cost of each airline is approximately \$200 million. Boom already has around \$6 billion in orders.

Sources: yahoo.com / autoevoltion.com / bbc.com

### Writing

Supersonic airplanes are a great idea. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

supersonic / passenger / skies / decade / speed of sound / business class / journey / commercial / flights / tickets / economy class / fuel efficiency / profitability / boom

### True / False

- 1) All passenger planes will be supersonic by the end of the 2020s. T / F
- 2) The speed of sound is 1,000kph. T / F
- 3) The new supersonic jets will be business class only. T / F
- 4) The new jets could fly from London to New York 3 1/2 hours quicker. T / F
- 5) The jets are the first supersonic passenger planes to fly this century. T / F
- 6) The price of tickets on the new jet will be double that of business class. T / F
- 7) The new jet will have the best fuel efficiency of any plane in the skies. T / F
- 8) The airplane maker has about \$6 billion in orders. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>return</b>     | a. running       |
| 2. <b>modern</b>     | b. present-day   |
| 3. <b>greatly</b>    | c. contracts     |
| 4. <b>cut</b>        | d. trip          |
| 5. <b>journey</b>    | e. considerably  |
| 6. <b>operating</b>  | f. effectiveness |
| 7. <b>roughly</b>    | g. reduce        |
| 8. <b>efficiency</b> | h. price         |
| 9. <b>cost</b>       | i. about         |
| 10. <b>orders</b>    | j. go back       |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of airplanes?
- b) What do you think of flying?
- c) What do you think of supersonic travel?
- d) What do passengers get in business class?
- e) What are the good and bad things about flying?
- f) Why is the company called Boom?
- g) How would the world change if we can travel everywhere very quickly?
- h) Would you like to fly on the Overture airplane?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Supersonic passenger planes could return | a. could afford one       |
| 2. Supersonic means faster than the         | b. over 1,000kph          |
| 3. The planes will fly up to                | c. flights                |
| 4. a cruising speed of just                 | d. speed of sound         |
| 5. It currently takes around 7 1/2 hours to | e. fuel                   |
| 6. commercial                               | f. 88 passengers          |
| 7. roughly the same as regular              | g. do that journey        |
| 8. only the super-rich                      | h. efficiency             |
| 9. have much better fuel                    | i. to the skies           |
| 10. use sustainable aviation                | j. business class tickets |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about Concorde?
- What do you think of the cost of flying?
- Can flying ever be carbon neutral?
- How can airplanes be made better?
- What do you think of the in-flight service in airplanes?
- Would you like to work on an airplane?
- What questions would you like to ask Boom's CEO?

## Spelling

- before the end of this dcaeed
- the US rrcaier United Airlines
- sienussb class
- most modern epnssarge jets
- a cigsunri speed of just over 1,000kph
- 7 1/2 hours to do that onrujye
- make moccrmeali flights
- jyotiln operated by British Airways and Air France
- tickets will be ouyrhgl the same
- eycnomo class
- much better fuel ienfceyfic
- sabluiaesnt aviation fuel

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. j	2. b	3. e	4. g	5. d
6. a	7. i	8. f	9. h	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – Supersonic Jet

You think supersonic jet is the best way to travel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms of transport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): bullet train, electric scooter or hot-air balloon.

### Role B – Bullet Train

You think bullet train is the best way to travel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms of transport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): supersonic jet, electric scooter or hot-air balloon.

### Role C – Electric Scooter

You think electric scooter is the best way to travel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms of transport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): bullet train, supersonic jet or hot-air balloon.

### Role D – Hot-air Balloon

You think hot-air balloon is the best way to travel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms of transport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): bullet train, electric scooter or supersonic jet.

## Speaking – Transport

Rank these with your partner. Put the best forms of transport at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| • Supersonic jet   | • Bicycle    |
| • Bullet train     | • Skateboard |
| • Hot air balloon  | • Taxi       |
| • Electric scooter | • Bus        |

### Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 T	5 F	6 F	7 F	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.