

Flying taxis could be here in next three years

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A new form of transport will be with us in the next few years - flying taxis. Many of us grew up watching sci-fi movies with airborne taxis. Science fiction is now becoming science fact. The Japanese airline ANA has teamed up with a U.S. tech start-up

called Joby Aviation. The two companies aim to start operating air taxis at the 2025 World Expo in Osaka. They are currently working together on building the flying vehicle. They also need to work out what traffic rules the taxis will need to follow, and what kind of training flying taxi pilots will need. The five-seat, all-electric taxi will be able to take off and land vertically. It will have a flight range of 241 kilometers and a top speed of 321kph.

Joby's CEO said the taxis would be good for the environment. He told reporters: "Joby exists to help people save time while reducing their carbon footprint. Japan offers us a spectacular opportunity to do just that with 92 per cent of the population living in urban areas, and Tokyo being one of the top 20 most congested cities in the world." The president of ANA, Koji Shibata, was also excited about the project. He said: "ANA has 70 years of experience delivering safe and reliable flights to customers across the world....Being able to provide them with the option to travel rapidly, and sustainably, from an international airport to a downtown location is very appealing."

Sources: mainichi.jp / techcrunch.com / flightglobal.com

Writing

Flying taxis will help us a lot. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

form / next few years / flying taxi / sci-fi / movies / World Expo / traffic rules / speed environment / carbon / footprint / opportunity / population / cities / project / airport

True / False

- 1) We will be using the same flying taxis from sci-fi movies. T / F
- 2) An American airline teamed up with a Japanese tech start-up. T / F
- 3) The taxis will first be used in Tokyo in 2025. T / F
- 4) The taxi will be able to fly at over 300kph. T / F
- 5) The new flying taxis will be environmentally friendly. T / F
- 6) Over ninety per cent of people in Japan live in towns and cities. T / F
- 7) Tokyo is the most congested city in the world. T / F
- 8) The CEO of ANA said sustainable travel was appealing. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. form | a. chance |
| 2. teamed up | b. span |
| 3. operating | c. attractive |
| 4. training | d. running |
| 5. range | e. lowering |
| 6. reducing | f. kind |
| 7. opportunity | g. built-up |
| 8. urban | h. dependable |
| 9. reliable | i. collaborated |
| 10. appealing | j. instruction |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of taxis?
- b) What do you think of flying taxis?
- c) What other new forms of transport do we need?
- d) What problems might there be with flying taxis?
- e) What are the advantages of flying taxis?
- f) Would you like your town to have flying taxis?
- g) How much do you think a flying taxi ride might cost?
- h) What traffic rules would flying taxis need to follow?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. A new form of transport will be with us in | a. congested cities |
| 2. Many of us grew up | b. range of 241 kilometers |
| 3. ANA has teamed up | c. will need to follow |
| 4. what traffic rules the taxis | d. location |
| 5. It will have a flight | e. with a U.S. tech start-up |
| 6. taxis would be good | f. footprint |
| 7. while reducing their carbon | g. the next few years |
| 8. one of the top 20 most | h. flights |
| 9. safe and reliable | i. for the environment |
| 10. a downtown | j. watching sci-fi movies |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Would you like to ride in a flying taxi?
- Why would the taxis be good for the environment?
- What kind of size is your carbon footprint?
- How can we reduce congestion in big cities?
- Would you like your own flying car?
- How good would it be to fly downtown from an airport?
- What questions would you like to ask the company CEOs?

Spelling

- A new form of arnprttso
- Science tfoini
- start areoptnig air taxis
- the flying hvelice
- take off and land etlaicvryl
- a flight ngera of 241 kilometers
- good for the oveeintnrm
- gducneir their carbon footprint
- a sletucpaacr opportunity
- living in arnub areas
- delivering safe and ebiallre flights
- travel rapidly and tulsnisyaba

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Flying Taxi

You think flying taxis are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their transport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): buses, subways or bicycles.

Role B – Bus

You think buses are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their transport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): flying taxis, subways or bicycles.

Role C – Subway

You think subways are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their transport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): buses, flying taxis or bicycles.

Role D – Bicycle

You think bicycles are the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their transport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): buses, subways or flying taxis.

Speaking – Transport

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

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| • Motorbike | • Flying taxi |
| • Ship | • Bus |
| • Helicopter | • Train |
| • Bicycle | • Subway |

Answers – True False

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