

Chinese airplane makes first commercial flight

1st June 2023



Image: <http://english.comac.cc/products/ca/>

China has entered the business of making airplanes. The first Chinese-made commercial aircraft took off from Shanghai on Sunday and landed at Beijing Airport. The narrow-bodied C919 plane had 128 passengers

on board. The company that made the plane is the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China Ltd. This is shortened to "COMAC". China's President Xi Jinping hailed the C919 aircraft as a "triumph of Chinese innovation". Newspapers in China called the C919 "a symbol of industrial prowess and national pride". A passenger on the flight was impressed with the plane. He said: "The flight was extremely smooth, comfortable and memorable. I'll remember this fondly for some time to come."

COMAC hopes to be a major player in the commercial airplane market. It hopes to compete with industry giants such as Boeing and Airbus. COMAC started developing the C919 in 2008. Production began in late 2011. In September 2022, it passed the standards to fly commercially in China. COMAC's first customer was China Eastern Airlines, which bought five of the aircraft. COMAC plans to build 150 planes each year for the next five years. A spokesperson said there were orders for more than 1,000 C919s from different Chinese airlines. He hopes airlines from other countries will soon start making orders. He added that the plane was an "important milestone" for China's aircraft industry.

Sources: [bloomberg.com](https://www.bloomberg.com) / [news.cn](https://www.news.cn) / [aljazeera.com](https://www.aljazeera.com)

Writing

Flying is the best way to travel. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

China / business / airplanes / passengers / company / triumph / innovation / fondly / major player / compete / industry / giants / production / standards / order / milestone

True / False

- 1) The first made-in-China airliner arrived in Shanghai on Sunday. T / F
- 2) The airplane had 128 passengers and crew on board. T / F
- 3) China's president said the plane was a great example of innovation. T / F
- 4) A passenger said the flight was a little rough. T / F
- 5) COMAC is now bigger than Boeing and Airbus. T / F
- 6) The C919 airplane was allowed to fly commercially from 2022. T / F
- 7) COMAC will build 150 C919s a year for five years. T / F
- 8) The company has over 1,000 orders for the C919. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. entered | a. guidelines |
| 2. landed | b. skill |
| 3. shortened | c. big |
| 4. prowess | d. touched down |
| 5. remember | e. requests |
| 6. major | f. think about |
| 7. compete | g. business |
| 8. standards | h. joined |
| 9. orders | i. battle |
| 10. industry | j. abbreviated |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of airplanes?
- b) What do you know about airplane companies?
- c) What do you think of flying?
- d) What do you think of China making airliners?
- e) How could we make airplanes better?
- f) What is your country's biggest symbol?
- g) What is your country's greatest symbol of pride?
- h) What will you remember 'fondly for some time to come'?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. China has entered the business | a. giants such as Boeing |
| 2. aircraft took | b. innovation |
| 3. 128 passengers on | c. time to come |
| 4. a triumph of Chinese | d. off from Shanghai |
| 5. I'll remember this fondly for some | e. airplane market |
| 6. a major player in the commercial | f. the next five years |
| 7. It hopes to compete with industry | g. of making airplanes |
| 8. Production began in late | h. milestone |
| 9. each year for | i. board |
| 10. an important | j. 2011 |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about Boeing and Airbus?
- What do you think of your country's airlines?
- Do you think COMAC will become a major player?
- Would you like to work on an airplane?
- What will airplanes of the future be like?
- What important milestones have there been in your life?
- What questions would you like to ask COMAC?

Spelling

- 128 gsarnesspe on board
- a triumph of Chinese invoatonni
- permessdi with the plane
- The flight was eryxtemel smooth
- comfortable and eeoambmrl
- I'll remember this dlnyfo
- taigns such as Boeing and Airbus
- it passed the sandrdsat to fly
- COMAC's first ucsetmor
- bought five of the cfriatar
- the plane was an important mloneseit
- China's aircraft dnrusuyit

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Airlines

You think airlines is the thing a country can be most proud of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't such a great source of pride. Also, tell the others which of these is the least worthy of pride (and why): food, sports teams or history.

Role B – Food

You think food is the thing a country can be most proud of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't such a great source of pride. Also, tell the others which of these is the least worthy of pride (and why): airlines, sports teams or history.

Role C – Sports Teams

You think sports teams is the thing a country can be most proud of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't such a great source of pride. Also, tell the others which of these is the least worthy of pride (and why): food, airlines or history.

Role D – History

You think history is the thing a country can be most proud of. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't such a great source of pride. Also, tell the others which of these is the least worthy of pride (and why): food, sports teams or airlines.

Speaking – National Pride

Rank these with your partner. Put the things a country can be most proud of at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| • Airlines | • Universities |
| • Food | • Human rights |
| • Sports teams | • History |
| • Armed forces | • Traditions |

Answers – True False

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