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**Level 3 – 9th June, 2021**

## **Supersonic passenger jets could be flying by 2029**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

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 Overture airplane is approximately \$200 million. Boom already has around \$6 billion in orders.

Sources: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/united-placed-3-billion-order-121600471.html>  
<https://www.autoevolution.com/news/supersonic-boom-overture-is-set-to-become-the-world-s-fastest-airliner-162499.html>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-57361193>  
<https://boomsupersonic.com/overture>

# WARM-UPS

**1. AIRPLANES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about airplanes. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

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

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. AIR TRAVEL:** Students A **strongly** believe air travel is the best way to travel; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. FLYING:** How can these things be improved? What are the differences between economy and business class? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Improvements	Economy and Business
Check-in		
Boarding gate		
Airplane seats		
Food		
In-flight entertainment		
COVID-19		

**5. SOUND:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "sound". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

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

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

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. decade    | a. An airline; a company that flies passengers in airplanes.   |
| 2. carrier   | b. Travelling or moving at a speed that is comfortable and economical.                                   |
| 3. passenger | c. A period of ten years.  |
| 4. cruising  | d. At the present time; now.   |
| 5. greatly   | e. Very much.  |
| 6. currently | f. An act of travelling from one place to another.   |
| 7. journey   | g. Someone travelling on a bus, train, ship or in a car, taxi, etc., but not the driver, pilot, or crew. |

## Paragraph 2

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 8. ordered      | h. Keeping the environment the same by not taking too many natural resources.         |
| 9. commercial   | i. With another person or people; together.   |
| 10. operating   | j. About; approximately.  |
| 11. jointly     | k. Request something to be made, given, supplied, brought or served.                  |
| 12. roughly     | l. Anything about business and money.   |
| 13. fuel        | m. Material such as coal, gas, petrol or oil that is burned to produce heat or power. |
| 14. sustainable | n. Managing as a business.  |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

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 is orders. **T / F**

**2. 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       |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 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 |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

Supersonic passenger planes could return to the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (2) \_\_\_\_\_ United Airlines has plans to buy 15 supersonic jets from a company called Boom Supersonic. The (3) \_\_\_\_\_ will fly up to 88 passengers in an all-business (4) \_\_\_\_\_ service. They will fly at a top speed of Mach 1.7. This is 2,099kph. Most (5) \_\_\_\_\_ passenger jets have a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ speed of just over 1,000kph. The new planes could greatly (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

*planes*  
*cruising*  
*skies*  
*journey*  
*class*  
*cut*  
*carrier*  
*modern*

The jets (9) \_\_\_\_\_ by United Airlines are called Overture. They will be the first supersonic jets to make (10) \_\_\_\_\_ flights since Concorde stopped (11) \_\_\_\_\_ in 2003. Concorde was jointly operated by British Airways and Air France. The cost of Overture tickets will be (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the same as regular business class tickets. The price of a Concorde ticket was over 20 times higher than economy class (13) \_\_\_\_\_, which meant only the super-rich could afford one. Boom's CEO said Overture will have much better fuel (14) \_\_\_\_\_ and profitability than Concorde. Flights will be net-zero carbon and will use sustainable aviation (15) \_\_\_\_\_. The cost of each Overture airplane is approximately \$200 million. Boom (16) \_\_\_\_\_ has around \$6 billion in orders.

*tickets*  
*commercial*  
*already*  
*ordered*  
*efficiency*  
*roughly*  
*fuel*  
*operating*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

- 1) Supersonic passenger planes could return to the skies before the end \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of this deck aid
  - b. of this deck keyed
  - c. of this decayed
  - d. of this decade
- 2) The planes will fly up to 88 passengers in an all-\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. business classy service
  - b. business clash service
  - c. business class service
  - d. business classed service
- 3) Most modern passenger jets have a cruising speed of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. just over 1,000kph
  - b. justly over 1,000kph
  - c. adjust over 1,000kph
  - d. justice of 1,000kph
- 4) The new planes could greatly cut the time it takes to fly \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. abound the world
  - b. aground the world
  - c. around the world
  - d. about the world
- 5) It currently takes around 7 1/2 hours to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. flew that journey
  - b. do that journey
  - c. shoo that journey
  - d. zoom that journey
- 6) They will be the first supersonic jets to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. make commercially flights
  - b. make commercial flight
  - c. make commerce shall flights
  - d. make commercial flights
- 7) The cost of Overture tickets will be roughly the same as \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. regularly business class
  - b. irregular business class
  - c. regulate business class
  - d. regular business class
- 8) higher than economy class tickets, which meant only the super-rich \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. could affront one
  - b. could a ford one
  - c. could offer one
  - d. could afford one
- 9) Boom's CEO said Overture will have much better fuel \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. efficient and profitability
  - b. efficiency and profitable
  - c. efficiency and profitability
  - d. efficient and profitable
- 10) Flights will be net-zero carbon and will use \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. sustainable a biathlon fuel
  - b. sustainable every shun fuel
  - c. sustain ably shunned fuel
  - d. sustainable aviation fuel

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

Supersonic passenger planes could return to (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 15 supersonic jets from a company called Boom Supersonic. The planes will fly up to 88 passengers in an (3) \_\_\_\_\_ service. They will fly at a top speed of Mach 1.7. This is 2,099kph. Most modern passenger jets have (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of just over 1,000kph. The new planes could (5) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ United Airlines are called Overture. They will be the first supersonic jets to make (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Concorde stopped operating in 2003. Concorde was jointly operated by British Airways and Air France. The cost of Overture tickets will be (9) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Boom's CEO said Overture will have much (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and profitability than Concorde. Flights will be net-zero carbon and will use sustainable aviation fuel. The cost of each Overture (12) \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 million. Boom already has around \$6 billion in orders.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

1. What do supersonic jets fly faster than?
2. How many supersonic jets will United Airlines buy?
3. What is the top speed of the new supersonic jet?
4. What flies at a cruising speed of just over 1,000kph?
5. How long does it currently take planes to fly from London to New York?
6. What is the name of the new supersonic passenger planes?
7. When did the airplane Concorde stop operating?
8. How many times higher were Concorde tickets than economy class?
9. What kind of fuel will the new airplane use?
10. How much does one of the new airplanes cost?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

- 1) What do supersonic jets fly faster than?
  - a) the speed of sound
  - b) the speed of thought
  - c) jet fighters
  - d) the speed of light
- 2) How many supersonic jets will United Airlines buy?
  - a) 12
  - b) 16
  - c) 15
  - d) 22
- 3) What is the top speed of the new supersonic jet?
  - a) 1,432.8k
  - b) 1,234.8kph
  - c) 1,222.8k
  - d) 1,333.8k
- 4) What flies at a cruising speed of just over 1,000kph?
  - a) a Maglev train
  - b) fighter jets
  - c) bullet trains
  - d) most modern passenger jets
- 5) How long does it currently take planes to fly from London to New York?
  - a) around 7 1/2 hours
  - b) around 6 1/2 hours
  - c) around 5 1/2 hours
  - d) around 8 1/2 hours
- 6) What is the name of the new supersonic passenger planes?
  - a) Overtime
  - b) Underture
  - c) OverWorld
  - d) Overture
- 7) When did the airplane Concorde stop operating?
  - a) 2000
  - b) 2003
  - c) 2008
  - d) 2004
- 8) How many times higher were Concorde tickets than economy class?
  - a) 38 times higher
  - b) 15 times higher
  - c) just under 10 times higher
  - d) over twenty times higher
- 9) What kind of fuel will the new airplane use?
  - a) high-octane fuel
  - b) biofuel
  - c) sustainable aviation fuel
  - d) space rocket fuel
- 10) How much does one of the new airplanes cost?
  - a) approximately \$6 billion
  - b) approximately \$200 million
  - c) approximately \$20 million
  - d) approximately \$2 billion

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

## **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.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'passenger' and 'jet'.

<b>passenger</b>	<b>jet</b>
------------------	------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• return</li><li>• carrier</li><li>• 88</li><li>• top</li><li>• just</li><li>• journey</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• first</li><li>• jointly</li><li>• regular</li><li>• super</li><li>• carbon</li><li>• each</li></ul>
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# AIRPLANES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

Write five GOOD questions about airplanes in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# AIRPLANES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'passenger'?
3. What do you think of airplanes?
4. What do you think of flying?
5. What do you think of supersonic travel?
6. What do passengers get in business class?
7. What are the good and bad things about flying?
8. Why is the company called Boom?
9. How would the world change if we can travel everywhere very quickly?
10. Would you like to fly on the Overture airplane?

*Supersonic passenger jets could be flying by 2029 – 9th June, 2021*  
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# AIRPLANES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'plane'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you know about Concorde?
15. What do you think of the cost of flying?
16. Can flying ever be carbon neutral?
17. How can airplanes be made better?
18. What do you think of the in-flight service in airplanes?
19. Would you like to work on an airplane?
20. What questions would you like to ask Boom's CEO?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

Supersonic passenger planes could return to the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (2) \_\_\_\_\_ United Airlines has plans to buy 15 supersonic jets from a company called Boom Supersonic. The planes will fly (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to 88 passengers in an all-business class service. They will fly (4) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (5) \_\_\_\_\_ cut the time it takes to fly around the world. Passengers could fly from London to New York in under four hours. It (6) \_\_\_\_\_ takes around 7 1/2 hours to do that journey.

The jets ordered (7) \_\_\_\_\_ United Airlines are called Overture. They will be the first supersonic jets to make commercial flights (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Concorde stopped operating in 2003. Concorde was jointly operated by British Airways and Air France. The cost of Overture tickets will be (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the same as regular business class tickets. The price of a Concorde ticket was (10) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (11) \_\_\_\_\_ efficiency and profitability than Concorde. Flights will be net-zero carbon and will use sustainable aviation fuel. The cost of each Overture airplane is (12) \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 million. Boom already has around \$6 billion in orders.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |               |                   |               |              |
|-----|---------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) skies     | (b) spies         | (c) sties     | (d) shies    |
| 2.  | (a) career    | (b) carer         | (c) carrier   | (d) careen   |
| 3.  | (a) along     | (b) off           | (c) over      | (d) up       |
| 4.  | (a) on        | (b) at            | (c) of        | (d) so       |
| 5.  | (a) gravity   | (b) space         | (c) horizon   | (d) greatly  |
| 6.  | (a) currency  | (b) currant       | (c) currently | (d) current  |
| 7.  | (a) of        | (b) by            | (c) as        | (d) on       |
| 8.  | (a) since     | (b) for           | (c) when      | (d) by       |
| 9.  | (a) roughly   | (b) polished      | (c) smoothly  | (d) filed    |
| 10. | (a) above     | (b) rise          | (c) over      | (d) escalate |
| 11. | (a) quell     | (b) gruel         | (c) duel      | (d) fuel     |
| 12. | (a) radiating | (b) approximately | (c) flying    | (d) jetting  |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. before the end of this dcaeed
2. the US rrcaier United Airlines
3. sienussb class
4. most modern epnssarge jets
5. a cigsunri speed of just over 1,000kph
6. 7 1/2 hours to do that onrujye

## Paragraph 2

7. make moccrmeali flights
8. jyotiln operated by British Airways and Air France
9. tickets will be ouyrhgl the same
10. eycnomo class
11. much better fuel ienfceyfic
12. sabluiasnt aviation fuel

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( **1** ) Supersonic passenger planes could return to the skies before the end of this decade. Supersonic means faster
- ( ) jets have a cruising speed of just over 1,000kph. The new planes could greatly cut
- ( ) fuel. The cost of each Overture airplane is approximately \$200 million. Boom already has around \$6 billion in orders.
- ( ) The jets ordered by United Airlines are called Overture. They will be the first supersonic jets to make commercial flights since
- ( ) rich could afford one. Boom's CEO said Overture will have much better fuel efficiency and
- ( ) Concorde stopped operating in 2003. Concorde was jointly operated by British Airways
- ( ) than the speed of sound. The speed of sound is Mach 1, which is 1,234.8kph. The US carrier
- ( ) under four hours. It currently takes around 7 1/2 hours to do that journey.
- ( ) profitability than Concorde. Flights will be net-zero carbon and will use sustainable aviation
- ( ) 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
- ( ) of a Concorde ticket was over 20 times higher than economy class tickets, which meant only the super-
- ( ) the time it takes to fly around the world. Passengers could fly from London to New York in
- ( ) and Air France. The cost of Overture tickets will be roughly the same as regular business class tickets. The price

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

1. the skies . Supersonic return to planes could passenger
2. of than faster sound . speed means Supersonic the
3. passengers . The fly to planes will up 88
4. over 1,000kph . of speed Have cruising a just
5. it cut Planes greatly takes . could time the
6. make to flights . commercial jets supersonic The first
7. will of cost tickets the The be same .
8. higher 20 Over class tickets . than economy times
9. have better much Overture efficiency . fuel will
10. orders . \$6 Boom around already billion in has

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

Supersonic passenger planes could return to the *skies* / *skis* before the end of this *decide* / *decade*. Supersonic means faster than the speed of sound. The speed of sound is Mach 1, *which* / *what* is 1,234.8kph. The US *career* / *carrier* United Airlines has plans to buy 15 supersonic jets from a company called Boom Supersonic. The planes will fly *down* / *up* to 88 passengers in an all-business class service. They will fly at a *top* / *bottom* speed of Mach 1.7. This is 2,099kph. Most modern passenger jets have a cruising speed *to* / *of* just over 1,000kph. The new planes could *greatly* / *great* cut the time it takes to fly around the world. Passengers could fly *to* / *from* London to New York in under four hours. It currently takes around 7 1/2 hours to *do* / *doing* that journey.

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

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

S\_p\_rs\_n\_c p\_ss\_ng\_r pl\_n\_s c\_\_ld r\_t\_rn t\_ th\_ sk\_\_s  
b\_fr\_ th\_ \_nd \_f th\_s d\_c\_d\_. S\_p\_rs\_n\_c m\_\_ns  
f\_st\_r th\_n th\_ sp\_\_d \_f s\_\_nd. Th\_ sp\_\_d \_f s\_\_nd  
\_s M\_ch 1, wh\_ch \_s 1,234.8kph. Th\_ \_S c\_rr\_\_r  
\_n\_t\_d \_\_rl\_n\_s h\_s pl\_ns t\_ b\_y 15 s\_p\_rs\_n\_c j\_ts  
fr\_m \_ c\_m\_p\_ny c\_ll\_d B\_\_m S\_p\_rs\_n\_c. Th\_ pl\_n\_s  
w\_ll fly \_p t\_ 88 p\_ss\_ng\_rs \_n \_n \_ll-b\_s\_n\_ss cl\_ss  
s\_rv\_c\_. Th\_y w\_ll fly \_t \_ t\_p sp\_\_d \_f M\_ch 1.7.  
Th\_s \_s 2,099kph. M\_st m\_d\_rn p\_ss\_ng\_r j\_ts h\_v\_ \_  
cr\_\_s\_ng sp\_\_d \_f j\_st \_v\_r 1,000kph. Th\_ n\_w pl\_n\_s  
c\_\_ld gr\_\_tly c\_t th\_ t\_m\_ \_t t\_k\_s t\_ fly \_r\_\_nd th\_  
w\_rld. P\_ss\_ng\_rs c\_\_ld fly fr\_m L\_nd\_n t\_ N\_w Y\_rk  
\_n \_nd\_r f\_\_r h\_\_rs. \_t c\_rr\_ntly t\_k\_s \_r\_\_nd 7 1/2  
h\_\_rs t\_ d\_ th\_t j\_\_rn\_y.

Th\_ j\_ts \_rd\_r\_d by \_n\_t\_d \_\_rl\_n\_s \_r\_ c\_ll\_d  
\_v\_rtr\_. Th\_y w\_ll b\_ th\_ frst s\_p\_rs\_n\_c j\_ts t\_  
m\_k\_ c\_m\_m\_rc\_\_l fl\_ghts s\_nc\_ C\_nc\_rd\_ st\_pp\_d  
\_p\_r\_t\_ng \_n 2003. C\_nc\_rd\_ w\_s j\_\_ntly \_p\_r\_t\_d by  
Br\_t\_sh \_\_rw\_ys \_nd \_\_r Fr\_nc\_. Th\_ c\_st \_f \_v\_rtr\_  
t\_ck\_ts w\_ll b\_ r\_\_ghly th\_ s\_m\_ \_s r\_g\_l\_r b\_s\_n\_ss  
cl\_ss t\_ck\_ts. Th\_ pr\_c\_ \_f \_ C\_nc\_rd\_ t\_ck\_t w\_s  
\_v\_r 20 t\_m\_s h\_g\_h\_r th\_n \_c\_n\_my cl\_ss t\_ck\_ts,  
wh\_ch m\_\_nt \_nly th\_ s\_p\_r-r\_ch c\_\_ld \_ff\_rd \_n\_.  
B\_\_m's C\_\_ s\_\_d \_v\_rtr\_ w\_ll h\_v\_ m\_ch b\_tt\_r f\_\_l  
\_ff\_c\_\_ncy \_nd pr\_f\_t\_b\_l\_ty th\_n C\_nc\_rd\_. Fl\_ghts  
w\_ll b\_ n\_t-z\_r\_ c\_r\_b\_n \_nd w\_ll \_s\_ s\_st\_\_n\_b\_l\_  
\_v\_\_t\_\_n f\_\_l. Th\_ c\_st \_f \_\_ch \_v\_rtr\_ \_\_rpl\_n\_ \_s  
\_ppr\_x\_m\_t\_ly \$200 m\_ll\_\_n. B\_\_m \_lr\_\_dy h\_s \_r\_\_nd  
\$6 b\_ll\_\_n \_n \_rd\_rs.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

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 12348kph 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 17 this is 2099kph most modern passenger jets have a cruising speed of just over 1000kph 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 12 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 superrich could afford one booms 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 overture airplane is approximately 200 million boom already has around 6 billion in orders

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2106/210609-supersonic-jets.html>

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 1,234.8 kph. 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 2,099 kph. Most modern passenger jets have a cruising speed of just over 1,000 kph. 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 Overture airplane is approximately \$200 million. Boom already has around \$6 billion in orders.







# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. AIRPLANES:** Make a poster about airplanes. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. SUPERSONIC TRAVEL:** Write a magazine article about creating more supersonic airplanes. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on supersonic airplanes. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions of them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c    2. a    3. g    4. b    5. e    6. d    7. f  
8. k    9. l    10. n    11. i    12. j    13. m    14. h

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 F    3 T    4 T    5 F    6 F    7 F    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- The speed of sound
- Fifteen
- 1,234.8kph
- Most modern passenger jets
- Around 7 1/2 hours
- Overture
- 2003
- Over twenty times higher
- Sustainable aviation fuel
- Approximately \$200 million

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- Supersonic passenger planes could return to the skies.
- Supersonic means faster than the speed of sound.
- The planes will fly up to 88 passengers.
- Have a cruising speed of just over 1,000kph.
- Planes could greatly cut the time it takes.
- The first supersonic jets to make commercial flights.
- The cost of tickets will be the same.
- Over 20 times higher than economy class tickets.
- Overture will have much better fuel efficiency.
- Boom already has around \$6 billion in orders.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. a    2. c    3. b    4. d    5. a    6. d    7. b    8. d    9. c    10. b

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)