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Level 5 – 8th December 2025

Trump wants US to have tiny 'kei' cars after Japan trip

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251208-tiny-kei-cars-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/12/251208-tiny-kei-cars-5.html>

Huge change may be coming to American roads after a visit to Japan by President Donald Trump. America's much-loved SUVs may soon be rivalled by a four-seater, 660 cc car that is very popular in Japan — the "kei car". President Trump has developed a fondness for this small automobile. He wants kei cars to be manufactured in the USA. He wrote on his Truth Social website: "I have just approved tiny cars to be built in America...just like they are so successfully built in other countries." He added that the cars were "inexpensive, safe, fuel efficient, and quite simply, amazing".

In Japan, kei cars account for around a third of cars on the roads. They are ideally suited to the narrow streets of Japan's densely populated cities. However, laws must be passed to make the cars legal in the US. The website Quartz reported that: "There are lingering concerns that [kei cars] are too small and slow to be driven safely...on highways." US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy will remove all barriers to their production. He said: "If Toyota or any other company wants to make smaller, more affordable and fuel-efficient cars, we have cleared the deck."

Sources: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/business/2025/12/04/companies/trump-kei-cars/>
<https://qz.com/trump-tiny-cars-kei-japan>
<https://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-issues-order-start-producing-smaller-cars-11154208>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251208-tiny-kei-cars-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Huge change may be coming | a. small automobile |
| 2. SUVs may soon be rivalled | b. inexpensive |
| 3. very popular in | c. be built in America |
| 4. developed a fondness for this | d. in the USA |
| 5. He wants kei cars to be manufactured | e. to American roads |
| 6. I have just approved tiny cars to | f. by a four-seater |
| 7. they are so successfully built in | g. Japan |
| 8. He added that the cars were | h. other countries |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. kei cars account for around a third | a. narrow streets |
| 2. They are ideally suited to the | b. efficient cars |
| 3. Japan's densely | c. concerns |
| 4. laws must be passed to make | d. populated cities |
| 5. There are lingering | e. to their production |
| 6. too small and slow to be driven | f. of cars on the roads |
| 7. remove all barriers | g. the cars legal |
| 8. more affordable and fuel- | h. safely on highways |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251208-tiny-kei-cars-5.html>

(1) _____ be coming to American roads after a visit to Japan by President Donald Trump. America's much-loved SUVs may soon (2) _____ a four-seater, 660 cc car that is very popular in Japan — the "kei car". President Trump has (3) _____ for this small automobile. He wants kei cars to be manufactured in the USA. He wrote on his Truth Social website: "I (4) _____ tiny cars to be built in America...just like they are (5) _____ in other countries." He added that the cars were "inexpensive, safe, fuel efficient, and (6) _____".

In Japan, kei cars (7) _____ a third of cars on the roads. They are (8) _____ the narrow streets of Japan's densely populated cities. However, laws must be passed to make the (9) _____ the US. The website Quartz reported that: "There are (10) _____ [kei cars] are too small and slow to be driven safely...on highways." US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy will (11) _____ to their production. He said: "If Toyota or any other company wants to make smaller, more (12) _____-efficient cars, we have cleared the deck."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2025/12/251208-tiny-kei-cars-5.html>

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TINY CARS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2512/251208-tiny-kei-cars-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about tiny cars 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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2012/251208-tiny-kei-cars-5.html>

Write about **tiny cars** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]