

## Flying "car" could be on sale next year

15th July, 2018



Humanity is set to enter a new era of transport as a flying car could go on sale next year. The BlackFly airborne vehicle was unveiled by maker Opener in California on Thursday. It is the brainchild of Google co-founder Larry

Page. BlackFly's designers say it can travel for up to 40km at a speed of 100kph. It will eventually cost the same as a typical sports-utility car. The vehicle has been tested in Canada, which has authorized its use. Even though it will take to the skies, drivers (or pilots) will not need a pilot's license to get behind the controls. However, BlackFly operators will have to successfully complete a pilot's written examination and receive training in how to use the vehicle.

Critics say the term "car" is somewhat of a misnomer as it has no wheels and cannot be driven on roads. A more accurate description would be a person-carrying drone. The vehicle can only carry one person and is powered by eight propellers - four at the front of the car and four at the back. Company CEO Marcus Leng said: "Opener is re-energizing the art of flight with a safe and affordable flying vehicle that can free its operators from the everyday restrictions of ground transportation." A former vice-president of knowledge at Google said the age of personal flight could be arriving with BlackFly. He said: "I've noticed in my career that things go from impossible to inevitable in a very short period of time."

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [forbes.com](http://forbes.com) / [techradar.com](http://techradar.com)

## Writing

Flying cars are the future even though they could be dangerous. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

era / transport / vehicle / brainchild / speed / typical / skies / pilots / examination / critics / accurate / description / propeller / flight / restrictions / personal flight / time

## True / False

- a) The article said a new era of transport will start in June 2019. T / F
- b) A founder of Google initiated the idea for this flying car. T / F
- c) The new flying car will travel at a speed of 100kph. T / F
- d) People won't need to get a pilot's license to fly the car. T / F
- e) Critics of the car say it isn't really a car. T / F
- f) The new car can carry two people. T / F
- g) The company CEO said the car will encourage people to like art. T / F
- h) An ex-Google executive said the idea of a flying car is impossible. T / F

## Synonym Match

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

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <b>set</b>          | a. limitations     |
| 2. <b>unveiled</b>     | b. in the long run |
| 3. <b>eventually</b>   | c. instruction     |
| 4. <b>authorized</b>   | d. reviewers       |
| 5. <b>training</b>     | e. shown           |
| 6. <b>critics</b>      | f. unavoidable     |
| 7. <b>accurate</b>     | g. allowed         |
| 8. <b>restrictions</b> | h. observed        |
| 9. <b>noticed</b>      | i. ready           |
| 10. <b>inevitable</b>  | j. correct         |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of flying cars?
- b) Would you like to buy a flying car?
- c) What are the dangers of flying cars?
- d) What do you think of a new era of transport?
- e) How would flying cars change our lives?
- f) Where would you go in a flying car?
- g) Should people need a license to fly the car?
- h) Will flying cars mean the end of airplanes?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Humanity is set to enter a new      | a. to inevitable       |
| 2. a typical sports-                   | b. examination         |
| 3. Even though it will take            | c. transportation      |
| 4. get behind                          | d. of a misnomer       |
| 5. complete a pilot's written          | e. to the skies        |
| 6. the term "car" is somewhat          | f. of time             |
| 7. powered                             | g. era of transport    |
| 8. the everyday restrictions of ground | h. by eight propellers |
| 9. things go from impossible           | i. the controls        |
| 10. in a very short period             | j. utility car         |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Should BlackFly be called a car?
- How safe would you feel in a flying car?
- What would flying cars do to ease traffic on roads?
- What do you think of the idea of flying trains?
- What rules would be needed for flying cars?
- What other things we think are impossible might come true?
- What questions would you like to ask the car's designers?

## Spelling

- The BlackFly airborne vehicle
- unveiled by maker Opener
- It is the brainchild of Google
- a typical sports-utility car
- authorized its use
- BlackFly operators
- somewhat of a misnomer
- A more accurate description
- powered by eight propellers
- safe and affordable
- the everyday restrictions of ground transportation
- things go from impossible to inevitable

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Speed

You think speed is the biggest thing that needs to improve in cars. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these needs improving the least (and why): safety, design or fuel efficiency.

### Role B – Safety

You think safety is the biggest thing that needs to improve in cars. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these needs improving the least (and why): speed, design or fuel efficiency.

### Role C – Design

You think design is the biggest thing that needs to improve in cars. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these needs improving the least (and why): safety, speed or fuel efficiency.

### Role D – Fuel Efficiency

You think fuel efficiency is the biggest thing that needs to improve in cars. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which of these needs improving the least (and why): safety, design or speed.

## Speaking – Cars

Rank these with your partner. Put the things about cars that need the most improvement at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| • speed       | • fuel efficiency          |
| • safety      | • comfort                  |
| • reliability | • cost                     |
| • looks       | • environmentally friendly |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.