

## Saudi Arabia plans to build six-runway airport

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Saudi Arabia has announced a plan to build a huge airport. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told journalists about the plan on Monday. He said his country

would transform Saudi's current Riyadh airport into a world-beating six-runway hub. He said the airport would be able to accept up to 120 million travellers by 2030. He added that the airport would change travel in the region. It would be the world's fifth largest logistics hub. The new airport would also boost Saudi Arabia's economy. Another ambitious plan is the creation of a second national airline Riyadh International Airlines (RIA). This will compete with regional rivals Qatar Airways and the UAE carrier Emirates.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said the new King Salman International Airport would stretch over 57 square kilometres. It will include the current King Khaled Airport. An SPA official said: "The airport project is part of Saudi Arabia's vision to transform Riyadh to be among the top ten city economies in the world. It will help Riyadh's population grow to 15–20 million people by 2030." The SPA also said the new airport would be one of the greenest in the world. It will be built to be totally sustainable. It will be based on cutting-edge, green designs. In addition, it will be powered by renewable energy. A project spokesperson said the hub would be more than an airport; it would be an "aerotropolis".

Sources: [reuters.com](https://reuters.com) / [arabnews.com](https://arabnews.com) / [simpleflying.com](https://simpleflying.com)

## Writing

We should stop building airports because air travel is too polluting. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Saudi Arabia / airport / journalists / runway / hub / travel / region / logistics / plan / project / transform / economies / population / green / cutting edge / renewable

## True / False

- 1) The article says Saudi Arabia will build the world's biggest airport. T / F
- 2) The airport will get over 100 million travellers by the end of the decade. T / F
- 3) The article says the airport will boast about the Saudi economy. T / F
- 4) Saudi Arabia's new airline will rival those in Qatar and the UAE. T / F
- 5) The new airport will be 57 km long. T / F
- 6) The airport is part of a vision for Riyadh to be the world's best city. T / F
- 7) The new airport will be the greenest airport in the world. T / F
- 8) Renewable energy will be used for the new airport. T / F

## Synonym Match

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

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>announced</b> | a. completely  |
| 2. <b>transform</b> | b. area        |
| 3. <b>hub</b>       | c. extend      |
| 4. <b>region</b>    | d. change      |
| 5. <b>rivals</b>    | e. hopes       |
| 6. <b>stretch</b>   | f. competitors |
| 7. <b>current</b>   | g. made public |
| 8. <b>vision</b>    | h. power       |
| 9. <b>totally</b>   | i. centre      |
| 10. <b>energy</b>   | j. present     |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How can we make airports better?
- c) How can we make flying better?
- d) Should cities be decreasing and not increasing their populations?
- e) What would your vision for your city be?
- f) What renewable energies are best?
- g) How can an airport be totally sustainable?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the airport's designers?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Saudi Arabia has announced a plan         | a. largest logistics hub     |
| 2. accept up to 120 million travellers       | b. by renewable energy       |
| 3. It would be the world's fifth             | c. rivals Qatar Airways      |
| 4. Another ambitious plan is the creation of | d. square kilometres         |
| 5. This will compete with regional           | e. green designs             |
| 6. stretch over 57                           | f. in the world              |
| 7. among the top                             | g. to build a huge airport   |
| 8. one of the greenest                       | h. ten city economies        |
| 9. It will be based on cutting-edge,         | i. a second national airline |
| 10. it will be powered                       | j. by 2030                   |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of airports?
- What are the airports in your country like?
- What do you like and dislike about airports?
- What do you think of a six-runway airport?
- Why is it important for a country to have a big airport?
- What do you think of your country's national airline?
- How environmentally friendly are airports?
- Should we be travelling around the world less?

## Spelling

- enuanocdn a plan
- Salman told sarijtsouln about the plan
- transform Saudi's eunrrct Riyadh airport
- ptccae up to 120 million travellers
- change travel in the nogrei
- Another tuaboismi plan
- ceshrtt over 57 square kilometres
- The airport creptjo
- help Riyadh's anipoptluo grow
- built to be totally bstasanieul
- based on titcngu-dgee, green designs
- powered by eelebnwra energy

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Airplane

You think an airplane is the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their types of transport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): train, walking or car.

### Role B – Train

You think a train is the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their types of transport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): airplane, walking or car.

### Role C – Walking

You think walking is the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their types of transport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): train, airplane or car.

### Role D – Car

You think a car is the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their types of transport. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): train, walking or airplane.

## Speaking – Transport

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

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| • Airplane | • Helicopter |
| • Bus      | • Ferry      |
| • Taxi     | • On foot    |
| • Bicycle  | • Car        |

### Answers – True False

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

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.