
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Take Away English 隨身英語

Delivering by drones

用無人機送快遞



詞彙：Technology 科技

Technology is developing **by leaps and bounds**. A **gadget** as small as a smartphone now has more **processing power** than rockets to the Moon once had. New **tech** brings many advantages, making our lives easier and opening up new opportunities. One piece of **kit** that's been really taking off recently is the **drone**. This **pilotless mini aircraft**, originally developed for **aerial photography** and warfare, is now bringing us benefits closer to home. In the last few years, tech companies such as Amazon, Alphabet and Uber have promised us **delivery drones** – bringing goods to our doorsteps in a matter of minutes. Progress in developing them has, however, been slow.

Drones are helping to connect with and enhance the lives of people in remote locations. In the UK, the Royal Mail wants a **fleet** of 500 drones to help deliver the mail to far-flung communities. Windracers, the company developing the drones, say they can fly in fog and produce 30% fewer **emissions** than comparable **piloted** aircraft. And in Coventry in the UK, construction has started on an **air hub**, which will act as a base for police and delivery drones. Urban-Air Port Limited is working with car-maker Hyundai on the mini-airport, known as a **skyport**.

Drones could also play a part in improving the health of millions of people. In Zanzibar, for example, they're being used to **spray** wetlands against malaria. And writing for BBC Future website, Harriet Constable describes an incredible development project by the University of South Australia. The plan is for drones to eventually be able to **survey** populations for disease by reading the blood oxygen levels of humans from the air. They'll also be able to **scan** for other vital signs, like coughing and a high temperature.

It seems **the sky's the limit** for what drone technology can achieve. The only thing that sometimes keeps it **grounded** is regulation. Writing for the BBC, Jessica Brown says: "If our skies are to become as crowded as our streets, **airspace** rules need updating to prevent accidents." There are also related problems, such as **noise pollution**.

詞彙表

by leaps and bounds	突飛猛進地，非常迅速地
gadget	小設備
processing power	(電腦)處理(資料)能力
tech	科技設備
kit	成套裝備
drone	無人機
pilotless	無人駕駛的
aircraft	飛機，飛行器
aerial photography	航空攝影
delivery drone	交付無人機，物流無人機
fleet	機隊
emissions	碳排放
piloted	有人駕駛的
air hub	航空樞紐
skypport	小機場
spray	噴灑
survey	檢查
scan	掃描
the sky's the limit	沒有限制的
grounded	停飛的
airspace	領空
noise pollution	噪音污染

測驗與練習

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. How quickly do tech companies want to deliver goods to your home?
2. Where does the UK's Royal Mail want to deliver mail to by drone?
3. What might drones be able to do to check for disease in a community?
4. True or false? *Drones work by having a mini pilot on board.*
5. According to Jessica Brown, why do we need to update airspace rules?

2. 選擇意思恰當的單詞或片語來完成下列句子。

1. The bus company has bought a new _____ of electric vehicles.

hub	fleet	gadget	survey
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2. The speed of our broadband connection has improved _____.

by leap and bound	by leaps of bounds
by bounds and leaps	by leaps and bounds

3. London's Heathrow airport is a _____ for much of the UK's international flights.

skyport	kit	grounded	hub
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4. My laptop has great _____, so it's much quicker than yours.

process power	processed power	processing power	power process
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5. The _____ say we have to have smoke alarms installed in every room.

emissions	skyport	drones	regulations
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答案

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. How quickly do tech companies want to deliver goods to your home?

Quickly – in a matter of minutes.

2. Where does the UK's Royal Mail want to deliver mail to by drone?

The Royal Mail wants a fleet of 500 drones to help deliver the mail to far-flung communities.

3. What might drones be able to do to check for any disease in a community?

They may be able to survey populations for disease by reading the blood oxygen levels of humans from the air and scan for other vital signs, like coughing and a high temperature.

4. True or false? *Drones work by having a mini pilot on board.*

False. Drones are mini aircraft that have no pilot.

5. According to Jessica Brown, why do we need to update airspace rules?

Jessica Brown says: "If our skies are to become as crowded as our streets, airspace rules need updating to prevent accidents, terrorist attacks, and related problems, such as noise pollution."

2. 選擇意思恰當的單字或片語來完成下列句子。

1. The bus company has bought a new **fleet** of electric vehicles.

2. The speed of our broadband connection has improved **by leaps and bounds**.

3. London's Heathrow airport is a **hub** for much of the UK's international flights.

4. My laptop has great **processing power**, so it's much quicker than yours.

5. The **regulations** say we have to have smoke alarms installed in every room.