

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>

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 in orders. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. return | a. running |
| 2. modern | b. present-day |
| 3. greatly | c. contracts |
| 4. cut | d. trip |
| 5. journey | e. considerably |
| 6. operating | f. effectiveness |
| 7. roughly | g. reduce |
| 8. efficiency | h. price |
| 9. cost | i. about |
| 10. orders | 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 |

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?

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?