

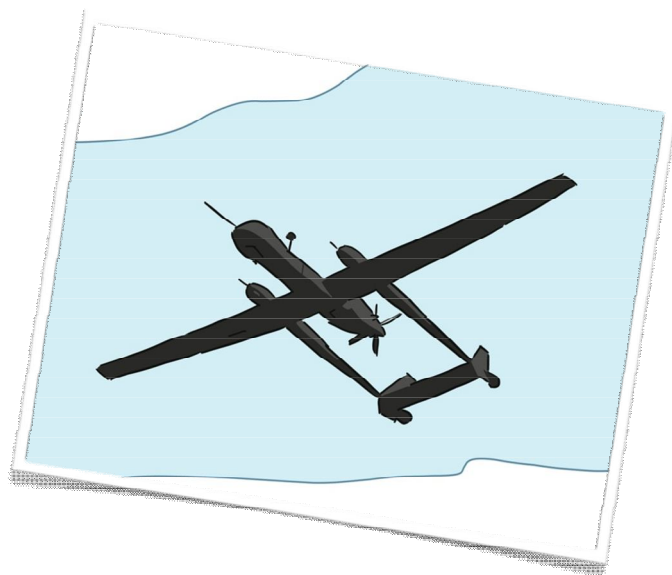
PRE-READING WARM-UP QUESTIONS ☀

1. How does a drone differ from a warplane?
2. What are drones used for?
3. Is the use of drones a form of terrorism?

PRE-READING VOCABULARY TASK ☀

Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. surveillance | a. a person who is not a member of the police or armed forces |
| 2. capture | b. not physical |
| 3. civilian | c. close observation (sometimes spying) |
| 4. terrorizing | d. an everyday person |
| 5. whiplash | e. movement from one thing to the next |
| 6. transition | f. to take a person or thing into one's own possession |
| 7. virtual | g. causing fear and great stress |
| 8. assess | h. in one's own country |
| 9. domestic | i. a sudden jerking motion in a new direction |
| 10. the average joe | j. to evaluate something |



Drones

Robot assassin or modern air patrol?

Drones are unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) operated from the ground. Some drones are used for **surveillance**. Others are armed for targeted attacks. Several countries have military drones in use, including the US, the UK, Israel, and China. The US has hundreds of drones in active use, and drone technology is spreading fast. When an American drone was **captured** in Iran in 2011, many feared the technology would be copied. This is called reverse-engineering.

Are targeted killings by drones legal? Many people don't think so. A recent study suggests that drones kill far more innocent **civilians** than targeted leaders. One UN investigator believes that drone strikes are a war crime. He believes that terrorists should be captured, not murdered.

What does it feel like to live under drones? Citizens in countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan say they live in fear of drones. They describe the **terrorizing** sound that drones make above their homes and businesses. Drones have powerful weapons that leave homes, buildings, and victims unidentifiable. In Pakistan, many people say they are anti-American because they oppose America's use of drones.

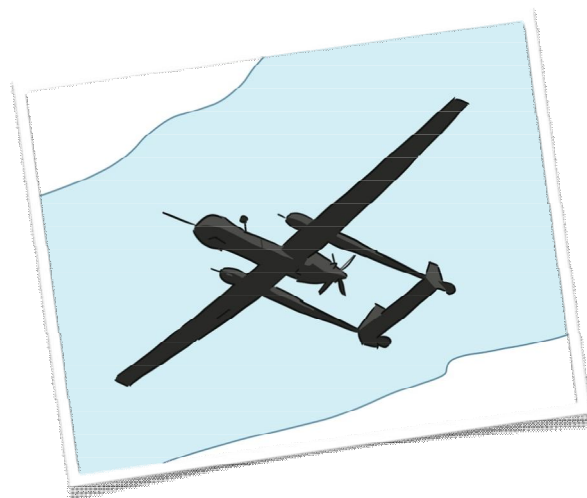
What about the drone pilots on the ground? Are these true combat pilots? Psychologists say that these pilots experience an odd form of trauma called **whiplash transition**. They go from a **virtual** war zone to regular family life with no time in between.

Not all drones are used in warfare. Drones are sometimes used to **assess** damage after natural disasters. In 2011, drones were used to assess radiation levels after the Fukushima power plant accident. Police forces are experimenting with drones for **domestic** use. Drones may be policing the skies above your home already. How long will it be before **the average joe** can build a drone for personal use?

COMPREHENSION

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. What does UAV stand for?
2. Why does the reading mention Iran?
3. What does the reading say about the sound that drones make?
4. Why are many people in Pakistan anti-American?
5. What were drones used for after the nuclear disaster in Japan in 2011?



VOCABULARY REVIEW

A. Chunking

Create six words or expressions by pairing the words that are commonly found together in English. Write a sentence for each example.

anti-, average, civilian, camera, war, disaster, innocent, surveillance, American, joe, natural, zone

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

B. Odd One Out

Choose the word or phrase that does NOT belong in the group.

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|----------|------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| 1. assess | determine | unidentifiable | evaluate | 3. motion | whiplash | sudden | civilian |
| 2. scare | worry | terrorize | domestic | 4. take | capture | surveillance | possess |
| | | | | 5. virtual | movement | transition | change |

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Will domestic drones create a surveillance society? If yes, when?
2. When do you think pilotless planes will be used for passenger flights?
3. Drones as small as birds are being developed in some countries. What do you think these will be used for?
4. What will happen if the *paparazzi start using drones?

**paparazzi refers to people who spy on celebrities and take photographs for gossip media*