

The Rise of the Drone

Today, we are going to talk about drones. What exactly is a drone? It is a small helicopter-like device that can fly by remote control. There are many sorts of drone including quadcopters, mini-quads, or multi-rotor helicopters that are all the rage at the moment. They vary in price from £10. Most video drones start around £100. It appears to be the new hobby to take up.

Drones are generally used to take aerial film or photographs. They have considerably reduced movie makers' budgets, as they have replaced costly helicopters in many instances. However, whilst drones have become more popular some are becoming a security risk.

Aviation experts in London recently banned drones in large parts of the capital during the visit of President Obama. This followed a London bound British Airways flight that was approaching Heathrow being allegedly hit by a drone. The incoming Airbus A320 was struck on its nose by the drone that was being flown near the area of Richmond Park in south-west London.

Chief Superintendent Martin Hendy who is head of the Metropolitan Police's Aviation Policing Command said the incident highlighted 'the very real dangers of reckless, negligent and sometimes malicious use of drones'.

Certainly it does beg the question - are drones just harmless fun or are they quite dangerous? It's a good talking point that you can debate in today's English lesson.

In the UK drones should be flown below 122 metres (400 ft.), not be flown over congested areas and be visible at all times. They should not be flown over crowds or congested areas and unmanned aircraft fitted with a camera should not be flown within 50m of people, vehicles or buildings. **(Continued on Page 4)**

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about drones. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What is a drone?
- 2) Name the people.
- 3) What are drones mainly used for?
- 4) What type of airplane was hit at Heathrow by a drone?
- 5) Where did the drone hit the plane?

Student B questions

- 1) Name the online retailer.
- 2) What is the retailer developing?
- 3) What did the Chief Superintendent say?
- 4) Pilots of drones in the UK should be mindful of what?
- 5) What have helped movie makers? Why?

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words about the '**Drones**' *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs think of three things drones can be used for in the leisure industry. Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs think of three things drones can be used for in the military. Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 5 minutes – As a class.

The advantages and disadvantages of using drones

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) If the Amazon delivery idea takes off what other things could be delivered by drone?
- 2) Are drones just harmless fun or are they quite dangerous?
- 3) Where may you legally fly a drone?
- 4) How much should you spend on a drone?
- 5) Do you need to buy any add-ons for your drone?
- 6) Are drones easy to fly?
- 7) Should one buy a DIY (Do-It-Yourself) drone or a RTF (Ready-To-Fly) drone?
- 8) Where can you get help when buying a drone?
- 9) How many propellers and motors might you need for your drone?
- 10) Can you control the camera(s) on the drone from the ground?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio. Today's interview is about: *The Rise of the Drone.*

- 1) Someone who has a small drone.
- 2) A pilot.
- 3) A journalist.
- 4) A spokesperson from Amazon.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - Student A is a reporter. *Student B* is someone who has a drone. You are at a drone display. *3 mins.*

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 3

In pairs - Student A is a shopkeeper. *Student B* is someone who wants to buy a drone. You want to find out more information and what legal requirements you might need to follow! *3 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 5 minutes – As a class.

The Rise of the Drone – open discussion
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Google it if necessary!

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Will you be ordering a pizza to be delivered by a drone?
- 2) Will you need to register your drone if you buy one?
- 3) Can you just fly your drone in your house?
- 4) Do you need to have insurance for owning and flying a drone?
- 5) What is the legal height for flying a drone?
- 6) Is there a distance limit for flying a drone?
- 7) How long can a drone fly for?
- 8) What happens if my drone develops a technical problem?
- 9) Can I fly a drone at any time of the day?
- 10) What do you think of drones being used in the real estate business?

GAP FILL: READING

The Rise of the Drone

Today, we are going to talk about (1)__. What exactly is a drone? It is a small helicopter-like (2)__ that can fly by (3)__. There are many sorts of drone including (4)__, mini-quads, or multi-rotor helicopters that are all the rage at the moment. They vary in price from £10. Most video drones start around £100. It appears to be the new hobby to take up.

Drones are generally used to take (5)__ film or photographs. They have considerably reduced movie makers' budgets, as they have replaced costly helicopters in many instances. However, whilst drones have become more (6)__ some are becoming a security (7)__.

(8)__ experts in London recently banned drones in large parts of the capital during the visit of President Obama.

quadcopters / device / drones / aviation / popular / aerial / remote control / risk

This followed a London bound British Airways flight that was approaching Heathrow being allegedly hit by a drone. The incoming Airbus A320 was struck on its (1)__ by the drone that was being flown near the area of Richmond Park in south-west London.

Chief Superintendent Martin Hendy who is head of the Metropolitan Police's Aviation Policing Command said the incident highlighted 'the very (2)__ dangers of (3)__, (4)__ and sometimes (5)__ use of drones'. Certainly it does beg the question - are drones just (6)__ fun or are they quite dangerous? It's a good talking point that you can (7)__ in today's English lesson.

In the UK drones should be flown below 122 metres (400 ft.), not be flown over congested areas and be (8)__ at all times. They should not be flown over crowds or congested areas and unmanned aircraft fitted with a camera should not be flown within 50m of people, vehicles or buildings.

malicious / negligent / visible / real / debate / reckless / nose / harmless

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

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Drones are generally used to take aerial film or photographs. They have considerably reduced movie makers' budgets, as they have replaced costly helicopters in many instances. (5)__, (6)__ drones have become (7)__ popular (8)__ are becoming a security risk.

Aviation experts in London recently banned drones in large parts of the capital during the visit of President Obama.

most / whilst / that / more / however / some / what / many

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in / you / by / or / a / on / it / and

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

READING – from page 1

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Pilots of drones in the UK should also be mindful of privacy when taking photos or video. Drones should also not fly near any airfields. The Chief Superintendent added that people should exercise 'common sense' when flying drones recreationally.

The online retailer Amazon raised eyebrows last year when it announced it was planning to deliver packages less than five pounds in weight in the USA by automated drones. The radical idea called *Amazon Prime Air* is now proceeding at full speed. The company is developing different types of prototype drones to test before this idea takes off.

WRITING

Homework - Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **The Rise of the Drone**. Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) popular
- 2) drone
- 3) helicopter
- 4) nose
- 5) security
- 6) considerable
- 7) remote
- 8) control
- 9) superintendent
- 10) metropolitan

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) aviation
- 12) incident
- 13) reckless
- 14) negligent
- 15) malicious
- 16) certainly
- 17) dangerous
- 18) visible
- 19) unmanned
- 20) vehicles

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