

Flying cars

- 1 Movies about the future often show people zipping around in flying cars. Last week, that vision came a step closer to reality for a Japanese company, as it showed off its flying car in action – complete with driver. Last Tuesday, a company called SkyDrive gave a demonstration of its new flying car, the SD-03. The small car flew around for four minutes, staying about 3 to 6 feet (1 to 2 meters) off the ground. The SD-03 is powered by batteries and has 8 electromotors, which lift it straight off the ground. Since flying cars don't use runways, they need to be able to take off and land by going straight up or down.
- 2 There are many challenges in the way. Controlling a flying car is so complicated that most people won't be able to do it. Even last Tuesday's test flight was kept stable by an automatic computer system, and a backup team stood ready to control the car from the ground. Safety is another major problem. What happens when a motor fails? If flying cars are crossing a city, an accident could hurt not just the people in the car, but people on the ground, too. That's one reason the SD-03 has eight motors – as backups.
- 3 Some people believe flying cars will reduce traffic jams, saving lots of time. But new systems will be needed to help control traffic in the air. With lots of cars flying around, these systems would be too complicated to be managed in real time by humans. Flying cars are very expensive as well. When it's ready, SkyDrive's flying car is expected to sell for between \$300,000 and \$500,000. But people who believe in flying cars point out that airplanes faced lots of challenges at first, too. With time, many of the big problems were solved.

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- 1p **7** Wat is waar over de test met een vliegende auto in alinea 1?
- A** De auto had geen start- en landingsbaan nodig.
 - B** De auto vloog zonder bestuurder aan boord.
 - C** De auto werkte op benzinemotoren.
- 1p **8** Wat is volgens alinea 2 één van de redenen dat de auto acht motoren heeft?
- A** om het besturen gemakkelijker te maken
 - B** om reserves te hebben als er één uitvalt
 - C** om sneller te kunnen vliegen
- 1p **9** Hoe reageren voorstanders van de vliegende auto op de genoemde nadelen? (alinea 3)
- A** door aan te geven dat problemen met de eerste vliegtuigen ook zijn opgelost
 - B** door te benadrukken dat er meer voordelen tegenover staan
 - C** door uit te leggen dat ze met veel geld kunnen worden tegengegaan