

DRŽAVNO NATJECANJE IZ ENGLESKOG JEZIKA
za 8. razred osnovne škole
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SLUŠANJE S RAZUMIJEVANJEM
TRANSCRIPT

These days we all know that time is money. People don't want to waste a moment of their lives travelling when they could be working, or relaxing on holiday. So with this in mind, why is the London-based company Seymour Powell working on a new form of transport which will go from London to New York in 37 hours, when we can already get there in seven? The company Seymour Powell have come up with the idea that 'slow is the new fast'. It's true that people traditionally want to get to their destination as quickly as possible, but I think everyone would agree that there is nothing pleasant about flying in a small, crowded passenger jet. That's why this company has developed the Aircruise concept. It aims to carry people to their destination in comfort and style, like the old ocean liners. It is not a type of plane. It is proposed that the Aircruise will be a huge kite-shaped airship. It will fly at 12,000 feet, but it would be able to fly at just a few hundred feet above the ground if there was something interesting to see on the ground, like a sort of luxurious hot air balloon. The plan is that it will be powered, not by hot air, but another type of air, hydrogen. Hydrogen is capable of lifting weights of 1.2 kg per cubic metre, and you can also use hydrogen fuel to provide on-board power and drinking water. With hydrogen as the fuel, you'd be able to reach speeds of around ninety miles per hour. It would be pollution free, and what's more, it would be completely silent! They are similar to Zeppelins, the airships from the 1930's which were rather dangerous. In the famous Hindenburg disaster, in May 1937 thirty-five out of the ninety-seven people on board were killed. But, technology has moved on a good deal since then, and scientists are looking at ways that we can create transport options that are more sustainable and kinder to the environment. It is going to be a luxurious form of transport. First of all it won't be full of people. One Aircruise ship will carry just 100 people. There will also be plenty of staff to attend to every need. They're estimating that there will be one crew member for every five people! Thirdly, the passengers will not be pinned to their seats for the entire journey, they will be able to walk around. There's going to be a bar, private apartments and even a glass floor so that one can see the view beneath. They wouldn't depart from airports because that would be very dangerous. The plan is to construct special landing pads. Compared to airports, these are much smaller, so the airships would be able to land much closer to urban centres. It's hard to say at this stage whether this Aircruise is just an idea or it is actually going into production, but the company is certainly gaining a lot of attention. One of the major Korean electrical goods companies is showing a lot of interest and providing some funding. So there is some talk that this dream could be realised in as little as five years' time. So in the future we'll probably all be gliding slowly to our holiday destinations, while drinking beers at the bar. Of course, only if you can afford it, because we can't expect that these new airships will be cheap.