
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

News Review

Driverless car trial



The story

Preliminary trials of the Fetch driverless cars have been going on for some time around Milton Keynes stadium. But the company and the local council now feel the time is right to take them out on to public roads.

The vehicles are not completely autonomous. They're controlled remotely by an operator who has a 360 degree view of the roads from cameras mounted onto the body of the car. And for the next few months, the cars will have a safety driver to intervene, should there be a problem.

It's the first time that driverless vehicles have been tested in the UK.

Key words and phrases

kick off

begin; start

- The match kicks off at six o'clock – so don't be late!
- I'll kick off the meeting with a look at our sales figures.

large-scale

involving many people or things

- Illegal logging has caused large-scale damage to the rainforests.
- Obesity has become a large-scale problem in the developed world.

hit

make an impact on

- The new computer game has hit the shelves.
- Coronavirus has hit the world economy.