Tesla Roadster 2 makes flying debut

LEVEL B2


Photo: Tim Meyer / Unsplash

I. WARM-UP

1. What features would you want in a future car?
2. Have you ever watched a product launch online? What was it?
3. Would you try a new technology early or wait? Why?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

prototype
A first test version of a product, not yet ready for mass sale.

demonstration
A public show of how something works.

remotely
From a distance, using control without being inside the device.

thruster
A small rocket or jet that pushes a vehicle in a direction.

ramp
A sloped surface used to go up or down smoothly.

flip
A quick turn in the air so something goes upside down and back.

deposit
Money you pay now to reserve or promise to buy something later.

variant
A different version of a product with special features.

III. READING

Elon Musk unveiled Tesla's redesigned Roadster 2 at a SpaceX facility in Texas, calling it the world's first flying car. In a live demonstration, the sports car drove up a curved ramp, used suction to grip while inverted, then fired SpaceX rocket thrusters to flip, fly and land.

It was controlled remotely for safety, and later used its jets to leap over a line of Tesla's existing models before accelerating from 0 to 60mph in under a second. Musk said the prototype has altitude controls and main thrusters at the rear, so it can "basically fly like a rocket".

He added that it might not be legal in every jurisdiction and that this version is not safety-optimised. Tesla also stated that flying is not permitted on public roads. Musk had voiced scepticism about flying vehicles in 2014, but three years later he announced the Roadster 2.

Production is planned for 2028, with a price above $200,000 (£150,000). A reservation site lists a $50,000 deposit for a performance model, $250,000 for a thrust variant, and a single-seat "rocket" variant with a full flight system available by invitation only.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **The Guardian***: "Elon Musk reveals 'world's first flying...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where was the Roadster 2 shown to the public?
2. What did the car do after climbing the ramp?
3. How fast did it reach 60mph during the demo?
4. When is the Roadster 2 planned to go into production?
5. What deposits are listed for the performance and thrust versions?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Should flying cars be allowed in cities? Why or why not?
2. What safety rules would you expect for vehicles that can fly?
3. Would you pay a deposit for new tech before it exists? Why?
4. Where should companies test risky prototypes, and who decides?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Mixed conditionals

Two frames: If + had + past participle → result now: would + base. If + past simple (untrue now) → result then: would have + past participle. Time words like now vs yesterday or last week decide.

"If regulators had certified it, it **would be on sale now***."*

"If it were legal everywhere, authorities **would have approved it last year***."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence using "would".

1. If the thrusters had misfired, the car (need) ___ repairs now. _____
2. If I were rich, I (pay) ___ a deposit last week. _____
3. If demo safety had failed, engineers (suspend) ___ trials now. _____
4. If deposits were lower, more fans (reserve) ___ yesterday. _____
5. If Musk had stayed sceptical, the car (look) ___ normal now. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


Photo: Tim Meyer / Unsplash

I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading and comprehension, 10 minutes grammar, 10–12 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach or check pronunciation of thruster, prototype, deposit, variant, and ramp. Clarify 0–60mph and the meaning of jurisdiction.
- Run a first skim read for location, claim, and key numbers; then a second read for sequence (ramp, flip, flight, landing). For discussion, start in pairs so quieter students can form ideas before whole-class sharing.
- Differentiation: stronger students summarise the demo in 4–5 steps using sequencing language; others match sentences to pictures of each stage before speaking.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Start with a quick show of hands, then pair students with different views to compare reasons.
2. Elicit 3–4 concrete rules from the text (remote control, no public roads) before wider ideas.
3. Have students estimate a sensible deposit, then compare with the figures in the text.
4. Set small groups to propose a safe test site and a decision process, then justify it.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Debate: In two teams, argue for or against allowing limited test flights in one city; 8 minutes prep, 6 minutes debate.

Writing: Write a 90-word safety notice Tesla could give viewers before a flying-car demo, including three rules.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Mixed conditionals

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.


Photo: Tim Meyer / Unsplash

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where was the Roadster 2 shown to the public?
   At a SpaceX facility in Texas.
2. What did the car do after climbing the ramp?
   It used thrusters to flip, fly and land.
3. How fast did it reach 60mph during the demo?
   In under one second.
4. When is the Roadster 2 planned to go into production?
   In 2028.
5. What deposits are listed for the performance and thrust versions?
   $50,000 for performance and $250,000 for the thrust version.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence using "would".

1. If the thrusters had misfired, the car ___ repairs now. **would need**
2. If I were rich, I ___ a deposit last week. **would have paid**
3. If demo safety had failed, engineers ___ trials now. **would suspend**
4. If deposits were lower, more fans ___ yesterday. **would have reserved**
5. If Musk had stayed sceptical, the car ___ normal now. **would look**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Two frames: If + had + past participle → result now: would + base. If + past simple (untrue now) → result then: would have + past participle. Time words like now vs yesterday or last week decide. (Examples constructed.)

"If regulators had certified it, it **would be on sale now***."*

"If it were legal everywhere, authorities **would have approved it last year***."*