Tesla shifts from Cybertruck to Cybercab

LEVEL B1


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I. WARM-UP

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word pickup?
2. Would you ride in a car with no driver? Why or why not?
3. What new technology has impressed you recently?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

wind down
to reduce activity gradually before stopping

pickup
a truck with an open back for carrying things

target
a number or goal that you plan to reach

safety standards
official rules to keep people safe

delay
a wait because something happens later than planned

deliver
to bring a product to a customer

investment
money put into something to help it grow or work

robot
a machine that can do tasks automatically

III. READING

Elon Musk said Tesla will wind down Cybertruck production, stopping around the middle of next year at its Texas factory. The plant will be used for the Cybercab, Tesla's self-driving taxi, as Musk turns his attention to robots and AI. The same site will also build Tesla's Optimus robot.

The pickup reached customers in late 2023 after delays and technical challenges, including its steel shell. It never went on sale in Europe because it failed to meet safety standards. Musk set a target of 200,000 a year, but Tesla never came close.

In Q3 2026 Tesla delivered only 8,300 "other models", including the Cybertruck, while Model 3 and Model Y reached 478,000 combined. Tesla has not said it will make the Cybertruck elsewhere, which would need significant investment. Meanwhile, the company has been offering paid Cybercab trips in limited parts of Austin. Tesla also stopped production of the Model S and Model X earlier this year.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **The Guardian***: "Tesla to wind down Cybertruck production as...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is Tesla ending Cybertruck production at its Texas factory?
2. When did the Cybertruck first reach customers?
3. Why did the Cybertruck not go on sale in Europe?
4. What sales figures did Tesla report for Q3 2026?
5. Where has Tesla been offering paid Cybercab trips?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Is moving resources from cars to robotaxis a smart strategy? Why?
2. Would driverless taxis work well in your city? Explain.
3. Why do you think the Cybertruck struggled to meet its target?
4. How do you feel about robots doing more factory work?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Present perfect continuous

Use have/has + been + verb-ing for an action that started before now and is still continuing. Use FOR + a period (for six months) and SINCE + a starting point (since 2024).

"The company **has been offering** *paid Cybercab trips."*

"Since last year, labs **have been testing** *robot sensors."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with the present perfect continuous.

1. Since 2024, developers (work) ___ on robot software. _____
2. For months, engineers (refine) ___ self-driving code. _____
3. A robot (train) ___ since spring. _____
4. Teams (build) ___ two-seat taxis for weeks. _____
5. Researchers (discuss) ___ safety rules since last year. _____

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.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading and comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach pickup, wind down, target, deliver, and review safety standards versus rules to avoid confusion.
- Reading: set a skim task (why production is ending), then a scan task (two numbers from Q3 2026). Discussion: start with pairs, then whole-class share to include quieter students.
- Differentiation: stronger students summarise the second paragraph in 40 words; others highlight lines that support each answer before speaking.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Push for reasons beyond costs; ask students to name one benefit and one risk.
2. Have students map a short route in pairs and predict issues like traffic or weather.
3. Write three possible reasons on the board (price, design, competition) and vote first.
4. Elicit two pros and two cons, then ask who gains or loses from more robots.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Debate: In two teams, prepare 3-minute arguments for or against replacing the Cybertruck with the Cybercab, then hold a class debate.

Writing: Individually, write a 90-word news brief summarising Tesla's shift to the Cybercab, including two key numbers from Q3 2026.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Present perfect continuous

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

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is Tesla ending Cybertruck production at its Texas factory?
   So the factory can be used for the Cybercab and the Optimus robot, as Musk turns his attention to robots and AI.
2. When did the Cybertruck first reach customers?
   In late 2023.
3. Why did the Cybertruck not go on sale in Europe?
   It did not meet safety standards.
4. What sales figures did Tesla report for Q3 2026?
   8,300 other models including Cybertruck, and 478,000 Model 3/Y combined.
5. Where has Tesla been offering paid Cybercab trips?
   In limited parts of Austin, Texas.

V. DISCUSSION

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

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with the present perfect continuous.

1. Since 2024, developers ___ on robot software. **have been working**
2. For months, engineers ___ self-driving code. **have been refining**
3. A robot ___ since spring. **has been training**
4. Teams ___ two-seat taxis for weeks. **have been building**
5. Researchers ___ safety rules since last year. **have been discussing**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use have/has + been + verb-ing for an action that started before now and is still continuing. Use FOR + a period (for six months) and SINCE + a starting point (since 2024). (Example 2 constructed.)

"The company **has been offering** *paid Cybercab trips."*

"Since last year, labs **have been testing** *robot sensors."*