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词汇: *Technology* 科技

Technology is developing **by leaps and bounds**. A **gadget** as small as a smartphone now has more **processing power** than rockets to the Moon once had. New **tech** brings many advantages, making our lives easier and opening up new opportunities. One piece of **kit** that's been really taking off recently is the **drone**. This **pilotless mini aircraft**, originally developed for **aerial photography** and warfare, is now bringing us benefits closer to home. In the last few years, tech companies such as Amazon, Alphabet and Uber have promised us **delivery drones** – bringing goods to our doorsteps in a matter of minutes. Progress in developing them has, however, been slow.

Drones are helping to connect with and enhance the lives of people in remote locations. In the UK, the Royal Mail wants a **fleet** of 500 drones to help deliver the mail to far-flung communities. Windracers, the company developing the drones, say they can fly in fog and produce 30% fewer **emissions** than comparable **piloted** aircraft. And in Coventry in the UK, construction has started on an **air hub**, which will act as a base for police and delivery drones. Urban-Air Port Limited is working with car-maker Hyundai on the mini-airport, known as a **skyport**.

Drones could also play a part in improving the health of millions of people. In Zanzibar, for example, they're being used to **spray** wetlands against malaria. And writing for BBC Future website, Harriet Constable describes an incredible development project by the University of South Australia. The plan is for drones to eventually be able to **survey** populations for disease by reading the blood oxygen levels of humans from the air. They'll also be able to **scan** for other vital signs, like coughing and a high temperature.

It seems **the sky's the limit** for what drone technology can achieve. The only thing that sometimes keeps it **grounded** is regulation. Writing for the BBC, Jessica Brown says: "If our skies are to become as crowded as our streets, **airspace** rules need updating to prevent accidents." There are also related problems, such as **noise pollution**.

## 词汇表

<b>by leaps and bounds</b>	突飞猛进地，非常迅速地
<b>gadget</b>	小设备
<b>processing power</b>	(计算机) 处理 (数据) 能力
<b>tech</b>	科技设备
<b>kit</b>	成套装备
<b>drone</b>	无人机
<b>pilotless</b>	无人驾驶的
<b>aircraft</b>	飞机，飞行器
<b>aerial photography</b>	航空摄影
<b>delivery drone</b>	交付无人机，物流无人机
<b>fleet</b>	机队
<b>emissions</b>	碳排放
<b>piloted</b>	有人驾驶的
<b>air hub</b>	航空枢纽
<b>skyport</b>	小机场
<b>spray</b>	喷洒
<b>survey</b>	检查
<b>scan</b>	扫描
<b>the sky's the limit</b>	没有限制的
<b>grounded</b>	停飞的
<b>airspace</b>	领空
<b>noise pollution</b>	噪音污染

## 测验与练习

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. How quickly do tech companies want to deliver goods to your home?
2. Where does the UK's Royal Mail want to deliver mail to by drone?
3. What might drones be able to do to check for disease in a community?
4. True or false? *Drones work by having a mini pilot on board.*
5. According to Jessica Brown, why do we need to update airspace rules?

### 2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. The bus company has bought a new \_\_\_\_\_ of electric vehicles.

hub	fleet	gadget	survey
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2. The speed of our broadband connection has improved \_\_\_\_\_.

by leap and bound	by leaps of bounds
by bounds and leaps	by leaps and bounds

3. London's Heathrow airport is a \_\_\_\_\_ for much of the UK's international flights.

skyport	kit	grounded	hub
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4. My laptop has great \_\_\_\_\_, so it's much quicker than yours.

process power	processed power	processing power	power process
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5. The \_\_\_\_\_ say we have to have smoke alarms installed in every room.

emissions	skyport	drones	regulations
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. How quickly do tech companies want to deliver goods to your home?

**Quickly – in a matter of minutes.**

2. Where does the UK's Royal Mail want to deliver mail to by drone?

**The Royal Mail wants a fleet of 500 drones to help deliver the mail to far-flung communities.**

3. What might drones be able to do to check for any disease in a community?

**They may be able to survey populations for disease by reading the blood oxygen levels of humans from the air and scan for other vital signs, like coughing and a high temperature.**

4. True or false? *Drones work by having a mini pilot on board.*

**False. Drones are mini aircraft that have no pilot.**

5. According to Jessica Brown, why do we need to update airspace rules?

**Jessica Brown says: "If our skies are to become as crowded as our streets, airspace rules need updating to prevent accidents, terrorist attacks, and related problems, such as noise pollution."**

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. The bus company has bought a new **fleet** of electric vehicles.

2. The speed of our broadband connection has improved **by leaps and bounds**.

3. London's Heathrow airport is a **hub** for much of the UK's international flights.

4. My laptop has great **processing power**, so it's much quicker than yours.

5. The **regulations** say we have to have smoke alarms installed in every room.