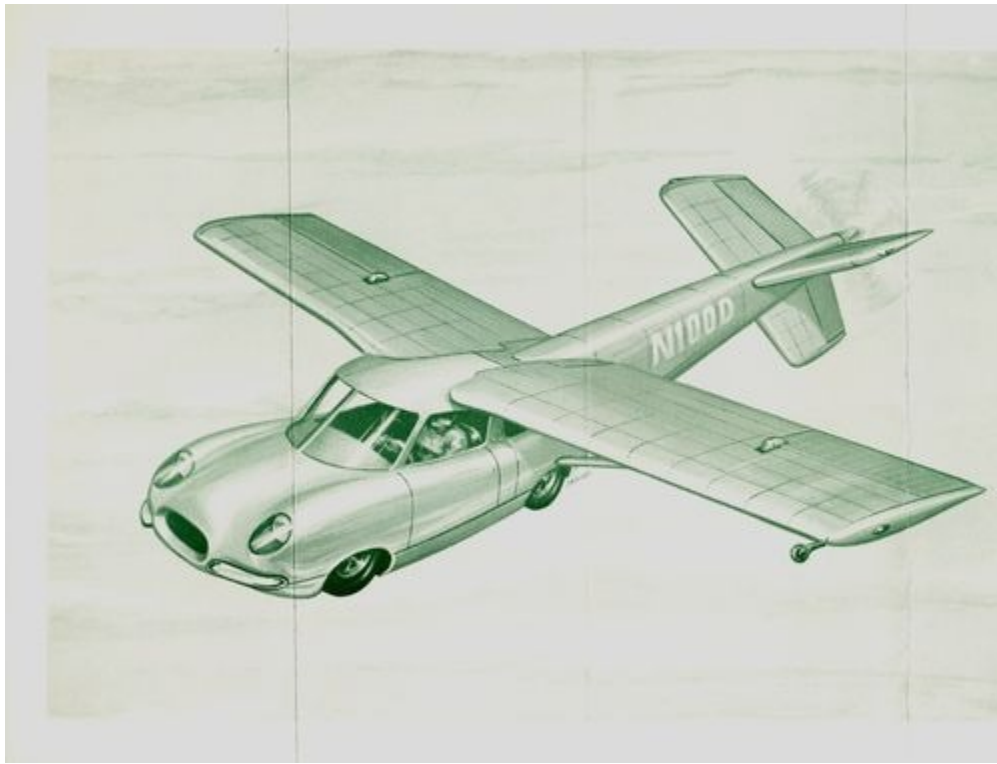


# When Will We Have Flying Cars?

by Linda Ruggieri



People have been trying to build a flying car for a long time. So far, no one has been able to get a car off the ground safely. But engineers keep trying!

One problem is that flying cars need wings. The wings must be designed so they will not stick out into other lanes of the road. Engineers are looking for solutions to that problem.

Two kinds of flying cars are being developed that may solve the problem. One type is called *the Transition*. It has rotating blades that spin and lift the car. Those blades fold flat against the sides when the car is on the ground.

Another kind is named the *Skycar*. It has large propellers. These propeller wings fold up and can be packed in the car's trunk.

Flying cars will not just fly up from the road. They will have to take off from

an airport runway. Still, some people are eager to have one of their own. Nobody is sure when flying cars will be available, but one company already has a hundred customers waiting for one.

So fasten your seat belts, and get ready for takeoff. Someday, cars may be on the road *and* in the air!

# Vocabulary

## design

verb

definition: When you design something, you draw or make plans that show how it will look or how it will be made.

*He designs costumes for movies.*

*She designed the new art museum for the city.*

Spanish: diseñar

forms: designed, designing, designs

## develop

verb

definition: When a scientist or business develops something, they create it starting from nothing.

*The company developed a new version of the game last year and now people can buy it online.*

*Scientists are developing a new kind of plastic.*

Spanish: desarrollar

forms: developed, developing, develops

## solution

noun

definition: A solution is an answer to a problem.

*The council finally agreed that the solution to the traffic problem was to build a second bridge.*

*This was a dilemma for which there was no solution.*

*The students found the solution to the problem by multiplying.*

Spanish: solución

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which people are trying to build flying cars?

- A. engineers
- B. airplane pilots
- C. racecar drivers

2. What is a main problem engineers are trying to solve to make flying cars?

- A. Flying cars need wings that will not stick out into other lanes of the road.
- B. Flying cars need to have a special kind of gas to be able to fly.
- C. Flying cars need to be able to fly up into the air straight from the road.

3. It is difficult to make a flying car that can be used safely.

What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?

- A. Two kinds of flying cars are being developed that may solve the problem.
- B. One company already has a hundred customers waiting for a flying car.
- C. So far, no one has been able to get a car off the ground safely.

4. Read these sentences from the text.

"People have been trying to build a flying car for a long time. [...] Nobody is sure when flying cars will be available, but one company already has a hundred customers waiting for one."

What can you conclude based on this evidence?

- A. Engineers are very close to inventing a flying car.
- B. Many people are excited about flying cars.
- C. People are not interested in cars that can fly.

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A. Flying cars will need to take off from an airport runway, instead of just flying up from the road.
- B. Engineers are trying to make flying cars, but first they have to solve the problems of flying cars by finding different solutions.
- C. Engineers are developing a flying car called the Skycar, which has wings that can fold up and fit in the car's trunk.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"One problem is that flying cars need wings. The wings must be designed so they will not stick out into other lanes of the road. Engineers are looking for solutions to that problem."

What does the word "designed" mean here?

- A. thrown away
- B. planned and built
- C. forgotten

7. Read this sentence from the text.

"Nobody is sure when flying cars will be available, but one company already has a hundred customers waiting for one."

Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below without changing the meaning of the sentence from the text.

\_\_\_\_\_ nobody is sure when flying cars will be available, one company already has a hundred customers waiting for one.

- A. So
- B. Because
- C. Even though

**8.** Why are wings a problem for engineers trying to design flying cars?

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**9.** What are the two solutions engineers have found to the flying cars' wings problem?

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**10.** Which kind of flying car is the better solution to the problem of needing wings?  
Why? Support your argument with evidence from the text.

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