

6.4

BEATING THE TRAFFIC

LESSON OBJECTIVE

- write a post giving your point of view



1 LISTENING

A Look at the picture of the drone delivering a package. What types of things do you think a drone can – and can't – deliver?

B 1.58 **LISTEN FOR GIST** Listen to Doug's podcast. What is his interview with Elsa about?
a how quickly drones can deliver packages
b how drones can reduce traffic problems
c how drones can cause problems for cities

C 1.58 **LISTEN FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION** Listen again. How does Elsa think drones will fix these problems: traffic, pollution, and noise?

2 PRONUNCIATION: Listening for weak words

A 1.59 Listen to the extracts from the podcast below. Circle the words that aren't fully pronounced.

- 1 Traffic! It can cause a lot of problems ...
- 2 And who better to discuss the topic ...
- 3 But they're a lot quieter than trucks.

B 1.60 Listen. Write the missing words.

- 1 Won't there be _____ accidents?
- 2 Drones are more useful _____ I thought.
- 3 And drones usually use batteries, so they cause almost no pollution compared _____ delivery trucks.

C Complete the statement.

The words *than*, *of*, and *to* are often stressed / reduced in fluent speech.

3 WRITING

A Read the comment by SensibleGuy, responding to Doug's podcast. What problems does he write about that Doug and Elsa don't mention?

PODCAST

SensibleGuy wrote:

I think using drones for deliveries is a bad idea. One truck can deliver a lot of packages, but a drone can only carry one package at a time. In a large city, trucks deliver thousands of packages every day. I don't really want thousands of drones in the air!

According to Elsa, drones will help solve the problem of traffic noise. Have you ever heard a drone? They're really loud – so I don't think that solves anything. Also, I don't trust this "sense and avoid" technology. I'm sure there will be accidents with so many drones in the air. And if they crash, the drones – and their packages – will fall into the streets or onto people.

Also, what happens if a drone arrives and you're not at home? Will it just drop the package into your yard? Maybe. If it does, I'm sure someone will steal it. What about delivering packages to apartment buildings? They can't fly in through people's windows. And who wants drones outside of your window anyway? Not me. It's creepy!

Drones are definitely not the answer. We need to find another solution to the traffic problem.

GLOSSARY

steal (v) secretly take something that belongs to someone else
creepy (adj) strange and making you feel frightened

B **WRITING SKILLS** Read about using questions to make points. Then find and underline all the questions in the comment in exercise 3A. What are SensibleGuy's answers to the questions?

We often ask questions to introduce or make a strong point. Then we answer the questions. Questions can make the readers feel like you're speaking directly to them. Compare the two ideas below. The first one is stronger and more interesting.

- 1 Have you ever heard a drone? They're really loud.
- 2 Drones are really loud.

C **PAIR WORK** **THINK CRITICALLY** What do you think of SensibleGuy's ideas? What kind of person do you think he is?

REGISTER CHECK

In informal writing, people often give their opinions without supporting their ideas with facts.

Informal

Also, I don't trust this "sense and avoid" technology. I'm sure there will be accidents with so many drones in the air.

Formal

I don't trust the "sense and avoid" technology. One study has shown that 64% of drone accidents happened because of errors with technology.

WRITE IT

D Write your own comment responding to Doug's podcast and SensibleGuy's comment. Decide if you think drones are good or not. You can use some of the ideas below and your own ideas. Add details. Use questions to make some of your points stronger.

Positive: people don't have to wait at home fast less pollution
fewer delivery trucks on roads cheap

Negative: are dangerous frightening for pets and wildlife
use energy take away jobs from delivery drivers

E **PAIR WORK** Exchange posts with a partner. Do you agree? How many of your points are different?

