

## Mercedes makes mind-control car

9th September, 2021



Cars are becoming more and more technologically advanced. In the past decade, we have seen improvements in electric car technology and driverless cars. The latest advance comes from Mercedes-Benz.

The luxury carmaker has unveiled a car that lets you use your mind to control certain things. The car giant unveiled its futuristic car at the IAA Mobility show in Munich earlier this week. The car is called Vision AVTR. The four capitalized letters at the end of its name is to make people think of the movie Avatar. This movie was about using the brain to connect with nature. A Mercedes spokesperson said the car would not be available for purchase any time soon. It is currently in the concept stage of production.

Mercedes is using a technology called brain-computer interface (BCI) in the Vision AVTR. The car's computers "read" brain signals and translate them into actions. Mercedes says the system needs about a minute to get to understand a new driver's thought processes. The driver will then be able to perform certain functions in the car using just their thoughts. Mercedes spokeswoman Britta Seeger spoke about how exciting she thought the futuristic car was. She said: "Mercedes-Benz is setting another milestone in the merging of man and machine." The Mercedes website says: "As soon as you get in, the car becomes an extension of your own body and a tool to discover the environment."

Sources: [mashable.com](https://mashable.com) / [techradar.com](https://techradar.com) / [thesun.co.uk](https://thesun.co.uk)

### Writing

Controlling technology with the mind is a great idea. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

cars / advanced / decade / technology / luxury / carmaker / futuristic / nature / stage / technology / computers / translate / driver / exciting / milestone / website / tool

### True / False

- 1) Cars are becoming less technologically advanced. T / F
- 2) The car was unveiled at the New York Motor Show. T / F
- 3) Mercedes named the car based on the movie *Avatar*. T / F
- 4) The Mercedes car will be on sale from next year. T / F
- 5) Computers in the car spend one minute "reading" the driver's mind. T / F
- 6) A spokeswoman said the car wasn't so futuristic. T / F
- 7) A spokeswoman said the car shows man and machine were joining. T / F
- 8) Mercedes said the car would allow people to discover the environment. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <b>decade</b>     | a. addition         |
| 2. <b>latest</b>     | b. activity         |
| 3. <b>unveiled</b>   | c. idea             |
| 4. <b>connect</b>    | d. joining          |
| 5. <b>concept</b>    | e. most recent      |
| 6. <b>translate</b>  | f. 10 years         |
| 7. <b>processes</b>  | g. putting in place |
| 8. <b>setting</b>    | h. link             |
| 9. <b>merging</b>    | i. change           |
| 10. <b>extension</b> | j. showed           |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Mercedes?
- b) What kinds of cars do you like?
- c) Are high-tech cars better than old cars?
- d) What do you think of electric cars?
- e) What do you think of driverless cars?
- f) Do you like futuristic things?
- g) Would you like to control things with your mind?
- h) What will cars be like in 50 years from now?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Cars are becoming more and more         | a. brain-computer interface |
| 2. In the past                             | b. futuristic car           |
| 3. The luxury                              | c. discover the environment |
| 4. The car giant unveiled its              | d. with nature              |
| 5. using the brain to connect              | e. certain functions        |
| 6. Mercedes is using a technology called   | f. technologically advanced |
| 7. read brain signals and translate        | g. and machine              |
| 8. The driver will then be able to perform | h. decade                   |
| 9. the merging of man                      | i. them into actions        |
| 10. a tool to                              | j. carmaker                 |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of Mercedes?
- Would you like to control things in your house with your mind?
- What are the dangers of a mind-controlled car?
- What do you think of the merging of humans and machines?
- Can a car become an extension of your body?
- What would you like to control with your mind?
- What questions would you like to ask the boss of Mercedes?

## Spelling

- more technologically ndeadvca
- The xulyur carmaker
- The car giant unveiled its tisruitfuc car
- The four laiztpicade letters
- the car would not be available for shacepru
- in the npteocc stage of production
- a technology called brain-computer feteicarn
- tetsnaral them into actions
- a new driver's thought rsceopsse
- perform certain nconfisut
- the irmngge of man and machine
- an etosnxeni of your own body

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. e	3. j	4. h	5. c
6. i	7. b	8. g	9. d	10. a

## Role Play

### Role A – Sports Cars

You think sports cars are the best cars. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cars. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): small cars, SUVs or stretch limousines.

### Role B – Small Cars

You think small cars are the best cars. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cars. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): sports cars, SUVs or stretch limousines.

### Role C – SUVs

You think SUVs are the best cars. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cars. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): small cars, sports cars or stretch limousines.

### Role D – Stretch Limousines

You think stretch limousines are the best cars. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cars. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): small cars, SUVs or sports cars.

## Speaking – Cars

Rank these with your partner. Put the best kinds of cars at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| • Stretch limousines | • Sports cars  |
| • 7-seaters          | • Classic cars |
| • SUVs               | • Sedans       |
| • Small cars         | • Jeeps        |

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.