

Honda Tests Self-driving Car for People Unable to Drive

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Cooperative (Adjective) /kou'ɑ:pəreɪtv/ involving working with other people or things towards a shared goal
Example: She remained cooperative despite her extreme dislike of her teammates.
2. artificial intelligence (Noun) /ɑ:rtɪ'fɪʃəl ɪn'telɪdʒəns/ the ability of computers to do things that are usually done by people
Example: Artificial intelligence was the topic of the documentary last night and they discussed the possibility of how it might rule the world.
3. Gesture (Noun) /'dʒestʃər/ a movement, usually of the hands or head, that expresses an idea or feeling
Example: BE very careful of your gestures if you're in a foreign country since it might put you in big trouble if you're misinterpreted.
4. Direct (Verb) /dɪ'rekt/ to control the movement or direction of something
Example: She directed the show and it became quite a success.
5. Joystick (Noun) /'dʒɔɪstɪk/ a lever in an aircraft that is used to control it
Example: This aircraft has two joysticks for training purposes.



Honda is testing a new self-driving car, made for people who can't — or don't want to — drive. The CiKoMa electric car is smaller than an average car, and looks a little like a golf cart. It uses Honda's "cooperative intelligence" (CI) technology, which is the company's own artificial intelligence.

With this technology, Honda says it wants to make the relationship between humans and machines a cooperative experience. The vehicle's technology makes it able to understand

language and gestures — which people can use to get the CiKoMa to pick them up when they want a ride.

Self-driving cars also usually need special maps of an area to drive there. But the CiKoMa doesn't need a map — instead, the machine uses cameras to take pictures to understand where it is and where it's going. Passengers will also be able to direct the car using a joystick. This is an example of CI, according to Honda, with the passenger and car working together to get where they want to go.

According to Nikkei Asia, the CiKoMa can move at speeds of up to 15 kilometers per hour, which is about the same speed as a bicycle. Honda is testing the little car at two places in the city of Josu in Ibaraki prefecture. If successful, it hopes to have the vehicle ready for use by 2030.

DISCUSSION

1. Do you think this car is going to be sellable in the future?
2. Do you think self-driving cars will become common in the near future?
3. Are electric cars popular where you live?
4. What's the smallest car you've ever been in?
5. Are very small cars popular in your country?