Xiaomi: Electric car buyers told they face six-month wait

By Mariko Oi, Business reporter for the BBC, April 1st 2024 - Reuters

Just days after Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi _101_ its first electric vehicle (EV), buyers have been told they may have to wait _102_ six months for their car to be delivered.

Screen grabs on Chinese social media show the firm advising buyers it could take 27 weeks to _103_ the SU7 Max.

The company previously said pre-orders _104_ hit 88,898 within 24 hours of it starting to take orders _105_ Thursday.

Xiaomi did not immediately _106_ to a BBC request for comment.

The technology giant, _107_ is the third-largest seller of smartphones in the world with a market share of about 12%, is taking on EV rivals including Tesla and BYD in the world's _108_ market for cars.

The standard SU7 model is priced at 215,900 yuan ($29,872; £23,663) and the Max version costs 299,900 yuan.

The _109_ price in China for Tesla's Model 3 is 245,900 yuan.

The SU7, which has drawn _110_ with Porsche's Taycan and Panamera models, has a minimum range of 700 km (435 _111_), beating the Tesla Model 3's 567km.

As part of its campaign to promote the SU7, Xiaomi _112_ released special versions of the car called the Founder's Edition, that come with free gifts, such as _113_.

On Sunday, the technology giant's chief executive Lei Jun said in a Weibo post that it _114_ open a second round of sales for the Founder's Edition.

The firm is hoping that the SU7's shared operating system with its phones, laptops and other devices will _115_ to existing customers.

Xiaomi's EVs are made by a unit of _116_ car manufacturer BAIC Group at a plant in Beijing that can produce as _117_ as 200,000 vehicles a year.

But the move comes as sales growth of EVs has slowed globally, triggering a _118_ war.

Tesla, which is headed by multi-billionaire Elon Musk, has cut the cost of its cars in China by thousands of dollars in recent months as local rivals like the world's top-selling EV maker BYD have _119_ prices.

In an indication of the challenges facing technology firms who want to make electric cars, iPhone maker Apple last month reportedly cancelled its plans to build an EV.

Last week, BYD posted record annual profits but said growth had slowed towards the end of last year.

Shanghai-based electric car maker Nio also lowered its forecast for first quarter deliveries as consumers tightened spending as China's economic growth _120_.

101)	a) invented	b) launched	c) created	d) sent
102)	a) along	b) up to	c) since	d) ago
103)	a) devise	b) direct	c) deliver	d) discharge
104)	a) have	b) has	c) had	d) are
105)	a) on	b) for	c) in	d) the
106)	a) responds	b) responded	c) responding	d) respond
107)	a) what	b) whom	c) who	d) which
108)	a) bigest	b) biggest	c) bigger	d) big
109)	a) starting	b) start	c) started	d) starter
110)	a) comparison	b) compared	c) comparisons	d) comparing
111)	a) mails	b) miles	c) mile	d) mail
112)	a) although	b) too	c) as well	d) also
113)	a) ridges	b) fridges	c) bridges	d) cartridges
114)	a) can	b) would	c) must	d) shall
115)	a) attract	b) please	c) appeal	d) entice
116)	a) state owning	b) state own	c) state-owned	d) state-owner
117)	a) much	b) many	c) lots	d) plenty
118)	a) price	b) prices	c) pricey	d) prize
119)	a) increased	b) rised	c) slashed	d) raised
120)	a) weakens	b) goes up	c) skyrockets	d) slows up

Generative AI holds much promise for businesses

By Rachana Shanbhogue, The Economist, Nov 13th, 2023

When ChatGPT was first launched at the end of 2022 it quickly became a sensation. Within two months 100m users were posing all sorts of **entertaining** queries ("Write me a rap song using references to SpongeBob SquarePants"). The number of people Googling "artificial intelligence" **surged**, and the **mania** set off investors' enthusiasm for all manner of AI projects. Yet the real promise, these investors and entrepreneurs **are betting**, lies with its use in business. Here, too, it could be more rapidly adopted than past innovations. But that does not mean it will happen **overnight.**

The potential is exciting. According to McKinsey, a consultancy, three-quarters of the business uses of generative AI will fall into four areas: customer operations, marketing and sales, software engineering, and research and development. Navigating a complex tax code or summarising a legal document **could become a breeze**. Type in the right prompt and a first draft of marketing copy could magically appear. Already many coders **rely on** Copilot, a coding tool from Microsoft, to help them write software. Studies show that professional workers with below-average performance tend to experience the most benefit from using generative AI, promising a big increase in **output** for firms.

1) "Were posing all sorts of **entertaining** queries" is close in meaning to:
   a) serious b) intellectual c) weird d) amusing

2) "The number of people Googling 'artificial intelligence' **surged**" is close in meaning to:
   a) escalated b) decreased c) went down d) dropped

3) "The **mania** set off investors' enthusiasm for all manner of AI projects" is not close in meaning to
   a) craze b) passion c) whim d) popularity

4) "Yet the real promise, these investors and entrepreneurs are **betting**" is synonymous with:
   a) are sure of b) are dead certain about c) are predicting d) are hesitating about

5) "It will happen **overnight**" means that it will happen:
   a) at night b) in the dark c) from one day to the next d) slowly

6) "Summarising a legal document **could become a breeze**" is not synonymous with:
   a) could become a piece of cake b) could become a bed of roses
   c) could be child's play d) could be an ordeal

7) "Already many coders **rely on** Copilot" means: a) distrust Copilot b) trust Copilot
   c) misuse Copilot d) abuse Copilot

8) "Promising a **big increase in output** for firms" means promising:
   a) large benefits b) skyrocketing prices c) major losses d) increased production