

THE * PHYSICS * OF * SANTA

Every year, Santa must deliver gifts to 200 million children spread over 200 million square miles in 24 hours. With 2.67 children in each household, 75 million homes to visit, and an average distance of 1.63 miles between homes, **how fast does Santa need to travel?**

No, not the speed of light.

50 TIMES FASTER THAN THE
HALE-BOPP COMET AT TOP SPEED. [2]

92,418 TIMES FASTER THAN
YOUR CAR AT 55 MPH.

His average speed would have to be
5,083,000 mph.

130 TIMES SLOWER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT.

(But still really fast.)

NEARLY 209 TIMES FASTER THAN
THE APOLLO 11 AT TOP SPEED. [3]

6,095 TIMES FASTER THAN
FELIX BAUMGARTNER'S
SUPERSONIC FREEFALL. [4]

MORE THAN 8,000 TIMES FASTER
THAN AIR FORCE ONE. [5]

Source
[1] <http://www.popsci.com/science/article/2012-12/fyi-how-long-would-it-take-santa-deliver-presents-every-kid-earth>
[2] <http://www.ifa.hawaii.edu/images/hale-bopp/FAQ.html>
[3] <http://history.nasa.gov/ap11fy/02earth-orbit-tli.htm>
[4] <http://www.redbullstratos.com/the-mission/world-record-jump/>
[5] <http://www.history.com/topics/inside-air-force-one>

