

Shipping Containers

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks with the correct word.

A shipping container is a large _____ box that sits on a truck, train or ship. It may look simple, but this box made globalization _____.

The history of the shipping container _____ back to 1956.

Malcolm McLean had a trucking _____ in America. His business was good, but he wanted to make it better. He looked at the shipping industry and _____ a problem.

In those days, shipping was _____. A truck would drive to a _____. Workers moved boxes by hand from the truck to a ship. When the ship arrived at a new port, more workers _____ boxes by hand.

Malcolm's idea was simple. Put _____ inside a container. At a port, big machines would move containers between trucks, trains and ships. Moving _____ boxes by hand was no longer necessary.

During the 1970s and 1980s, container shipping became popular. Ports with the _____ equipment needed to lift containers were built around the world.

How did shipping containers change business? First, shipping became cheaper and _____. Before Malcolm's idea, the cost of shipping was \$59 per tonne. _____ by container is about 16 cents per tonne.

Before containers, the average port worker could load _____ tonnes per hour. With containers, that average was _____ tonnes.

Containers move large volumes of _____. For example, one 40-foot container can hold 320 televisions, or 5,000 _____ of pants, or 100 washing machines.

Another change was employment. Before containers, businesses _____ lots of products in North America and Europe. That has changed. Companies now open factories in _____ Asian countries and transport products everywhere. Jobs are created in Asia. Jobs are _____ in western countries.

For good or bad, globalization has _____ the world by making shipping more efficient. That change was possible because of one man and a _____ box.