

Shipping Containers

Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

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

The history of the shipping container to _____. Malcolm McLean had a trucking company in America. His business was good, but he wanted _____ better. He looked at the shipping industry and saw a problem.

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

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

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

How did shipping containers _____ business? First, shipping became cheaper and _____. Before Malcolm's idea, the cost of _____ was \$59 per tonne. Shipping by container is about 16 cents per tonne. Before containers, the average port worker could _____ 1.7 tonnes per hour. With containers, that _____ was 30 tonnes.

Containers move large _____ of material. For example, one 40-foot container can hold 320 _____, or 5000 pairs of pants, or 100 washing machines. Another change was _____. Before containers, businesses _____ lots of products in North America and Europe. That has changed. Companies now _____ factories in low cost Asian countries and _____ products everywhere. Jobs are created in Asia. Jobs are lost in _____ countries.

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

Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. slow | a. make |
| 2. manufacture | b. cargo |
| 3. volume | c. change |
| 4. transform | d. inefficient |
| 5. products | e. quantity |

True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. Shipping containers became popular in the 1950s. T or F
2. Containers were invented by a truck driver. T or F
3. Moving cargo used to be labor intensive. T or F
4. Any port can unload containers. T or F
5. Containers increased efficiency. T or F

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Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

HCMENISA _____

RNTIUDYS _____

PERAHCE _____

IOFASTECR _____

GRICNUKT _____

ECFTIFNEI _____

ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

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1. What kind of story is this?
 2. What problem led to the idea of a shipping container?
 3. How much cargo can fit inside a single container? Give some examples.
 4. What is globalization?
 5. Describe the connection between shipping containers and globalization?
 6. Some people find interesting ways to use old containers. Can you think of any examples?
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Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. longer / necessary / hand / moving / no / was / small / boxes / by

2. box / possible / and / a / was / of / that / metal / change / one / man / because

3. back / of / container / goes / history / shipping / to / the / 1956 / the

4. days / in / shipping / was / slow / those

5. the / 17 / average / load / containers / per / worker / could / before / tonnes / port / hour
