

Elevators

Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

Elevators make life _____. We do not need to walk up high places or _____ big bags to our room. Where did elevators come from?

Elevators are old. About _____ years ago, they were used to move water and building _____. The Romans used them to move _____ into the Coliseum. People enjoyed watching lions and tigers and bears _____ men. Slaves turned big _____ to move the elevators.

Steam power later _____ human power. Steam power moved elevators in small buildings. But, from time to time they had problems. Sometimes the line pulling the elevator _____. When the line broke, the elevator _____ and the people riding inside were _____ or died. That's why most people did not want to ride _____ elevators.

In _____, one man changed that. His name was Elisha Otis. He did not _____ the elevator. He made an elevator _____. That made them safe. The brake worked very well, but people did not _____ it at first.

Otis wanted to change people's minds so he made a _____. He made a small elevator outside that people could see. It was quite _____. Otis stood on top. His helper cut the line _____ the elevator. People were _____. The elevator did not fall. Otis was safe.

His plan _____. A few years later, a store in New York City put in the _____ elevator for people. The store became _____. People thought elevators were now _____.

Elevators changed _____ life. Without a safe elevator, high buildings would not be _____. People would not walk up many floors. The _____ city is possible because of Otis. He changed the way people thought with a good _____ and a good story.

Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. post | a. secure |
| 2. broke | b. trust |
| 3. safe | c. pole |
| 4. believe | d. issues |
| 5. problems | e. snapped |

True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. Ancient elevators moved lions. T or F
2. Steam powered elevators used rope. T or F
3. Otis changed the way people thought about public shows. T or F
4. The first people elevator was built in New York. T or F
5. Otis invented the elevator. T or F

Elevators

Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

AIDE

MEAST

MNREOD

ASLAMIETR

UOHTGHT

LSUDGNIIB

ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

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1. Where does the story take place?
 2. What problem gave Otis a good idea?
 3. Retell the story of Otis' public show.
 4. What are the pros and cons of elevators?
 5. How did Otis' invention change modern cities?
 6. If we didn't have elevators, what might cities look like?
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Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. and / People / watching / lions / fight / tigers / and / men / bears / enjoyed
-

2. small / power / elevators / buildings / moved / Steam / in
-

3. Otis / is / modern / because / possible / city / of / The
-

4. Without / buildings / high / not / possible / safe / would / a / elevator / be
-

5. elevators / turned / posts / Slaves / to / the / big / move
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