

★ Lesson 1 ★

Word List

Study the words below. Then do the exercises for the lesson.

aboard
aloft

blast
cautious

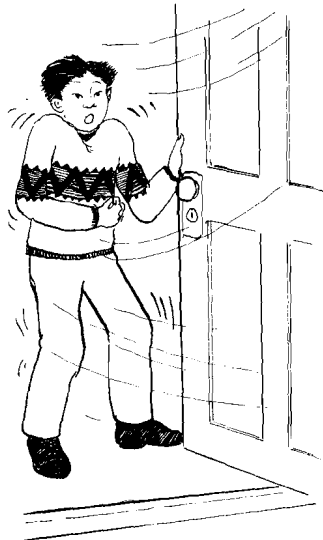
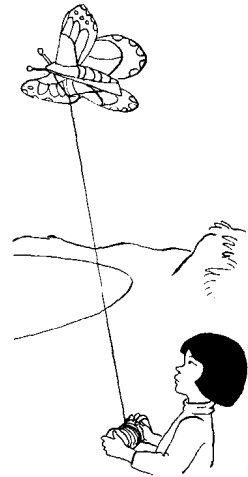
girder
invent

rotate
story

strand
tower

Aboard means in or on a ship, train, or airplane. Jason jumped aboard the train just before the doors closed.

Aloft means high in the air. Sue's kite floated aloft as she let out more string.



A **blast** is a strong wind or movement of air. An icy blast blew into the room when Caleb opened the door.

A **blast** is a loud noise. The whistle gave two blasts, and then the ship began to move away from the dock.

To **blast** something is to blow it up. To begin the tunnel through the mountain, the workers need to blast these rocks.

To **blast** off is to go up in the air or into space. Raisa and her family will watch the rocket blast off at noon tomorrow.

Exercise 1

Words and Their Meanings

Look at the group of words on the left. Then circle the letter of the word on the right that has the same meaning.

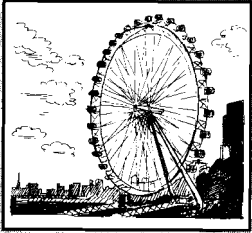
- 1 a loud noise (a) strand (b) blast (c) girder (d) inventor
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- 2 a metal support (a) girder (b) story (c) tower (d) strand
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- 3 to make for the first time (a) tower (b) rotate (c) blast (d) invent
-
- 4 high up (a) stranded (b) aloft (c) aboard (d) cautious
-
- 5 one level of a building (a) inventor (b) strand (c) story (d) tower
-

Now look at the word on the left. Then circle the letter of the group of words on the right that has the same meaning.

- 6 aboard (a) in a helpless state (b) left behind
(c) going in a circle (d) on a ship
-
- 7 cautious (a) avoiding mistakes (b) getting hurt
(c) taking risks (d) speaking loudly
-
- 8 rotate (a) stay in one place (b) jump into the air
(c) fall quickly (d) go in a circle
-
- 9 tower (a) a twisted thread (b) a tall building
(c) a news report (d) a strong wind
-
- 10 strand (a) move quickly (b) blow up
(c) leave in a helpless position (d) send to the wrong place
-

Story

Read the story below and then answer the questions that follow it.



Do you like to ride Ferris wheels? Let us explore the biggest one in the world. It is in London, England, and was built to mark the year 2000.

This gigantic wheel stands almost 450 feet high in the center of the city next to the Thames River. From a distance, it looks like a great bicycle wheel. The wheel **rotates** very slowly. It does not even seem to be moving. There are thirty-two cars. Each one can carry about two dozen people. The riders have plenty of time to enjoy the views of London. It takes fifteen minutes for each car to go from the ground up to the highest point. At the top, people can see things as far away as twenty-five miles. Maybe that is why this huge wheel is named the London Eye.

After the wheel opened in January 2000, more than a million people visited it. Those going **aboard** were not afraid. People know that these giant wheels are very safe. But that was not the case when the first Ferris wheel was **invented** over a hundred years ago.

It was 1893, the year of the Chicago World's Fair. The people planning the fair wanted something special and surprising to draw a crowd. They chose the design of George Ferris, a man who had built many bridges. His idea was very different. He planned to make a huge steel wheel that was supported by two tall **towers**. The power from two steam engines would turn the wheel. There would be thirty-six cars. Each could hold sixty people. The wheel would slowly carry people **aloft** and return them to the ground. This looked like fun, but was it safe?

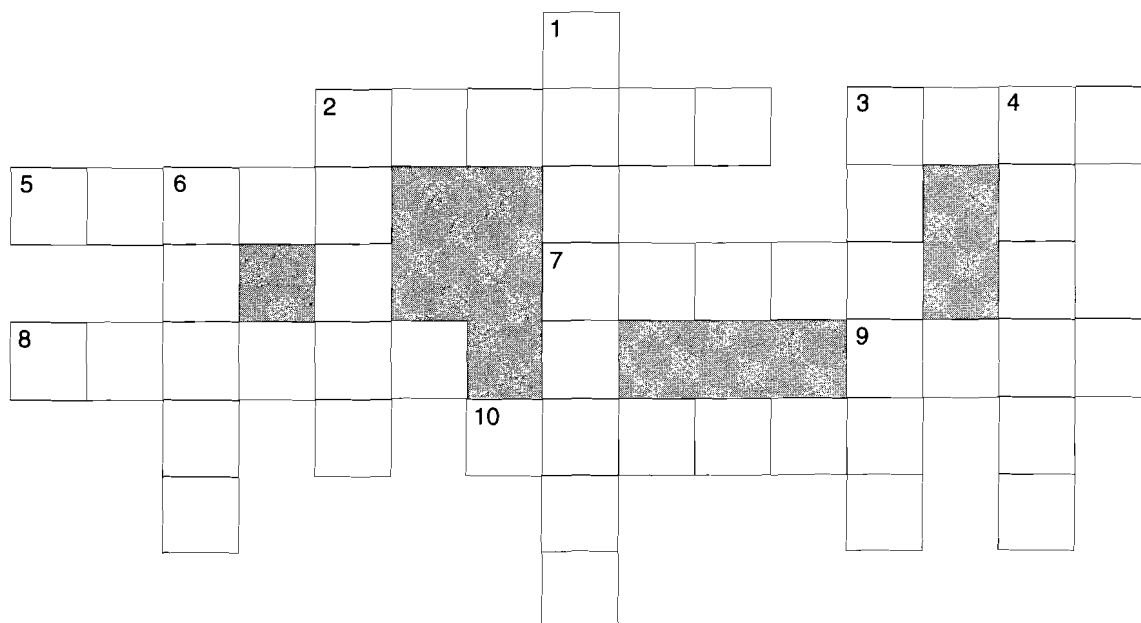
At first, people were **cautious**. The wheel was very high. Chicago already had buildings that were ten **stories** high. But George Ferris's wheel was going to be at least two times as high. In addition, Chicago often had very strong winds. Maybe the powerful winds would shake the wheel or twist it out of shape. Could the people in the cars be **stranded** if the engines stopped?

George Ferris believed his wheel was safe. He decided to prove this to everyone. Ferris, his wife, and a brave newspaper reporter chose a windy day to take a ride. With the wind blowing 110 miles per hour, the three riders stepped into one of the cars and were slowly carried up into the storm. Later, the reporter wrote that the **blast** from the wind made it impossible to hear. It screamed through the thin **girders** and shook the windows. But all three returned safely to the ground.

The first Ferris wheel became a very popular ride. Thousands of people rode it all through that summer. Before long, more wheels were built, and they kept getting bigger. In the year 2000, the London Eye was the tallest wheel in the world.

Crossword Puzzle

Look at the twelve sentences at the bottom of the page. Each one has a word missing. Write that word in the correct boxes of the puzzle. Look at the number of each sentence. Then find the same number on the puzzle. Put the first letter of the word in the box with the number. Write the letters going across if the sentence is in the ACROSS column. Write the letters going down if the sentence is in the DOWN column. All of the answers are from Lesson 1 except 3 and 9 ACROSS.



ACROSS

2. Each _____ in this silk cord is a different color.
3. Don't _____ the racket so tightly.
5. Six, five, four, three, two, one, _____ off.
7. These giant redwoods _____ over the other trees.
8. The captain went _____ the ship to check the engines.
9. No small children may go to the _____ end of the pool.
10. This pedal makes the wheel _____.

DOWN

1. Be _____ when you cross this busy street.
2. Did you read this _____ about a toad?
3. The _____ supports one end of the bridge.
4. When did they _____ the computer mouse?
6. We watched the paper float _____ into the tree branches.