

Jobs Change

A Reading A-Z Shared Reading Book

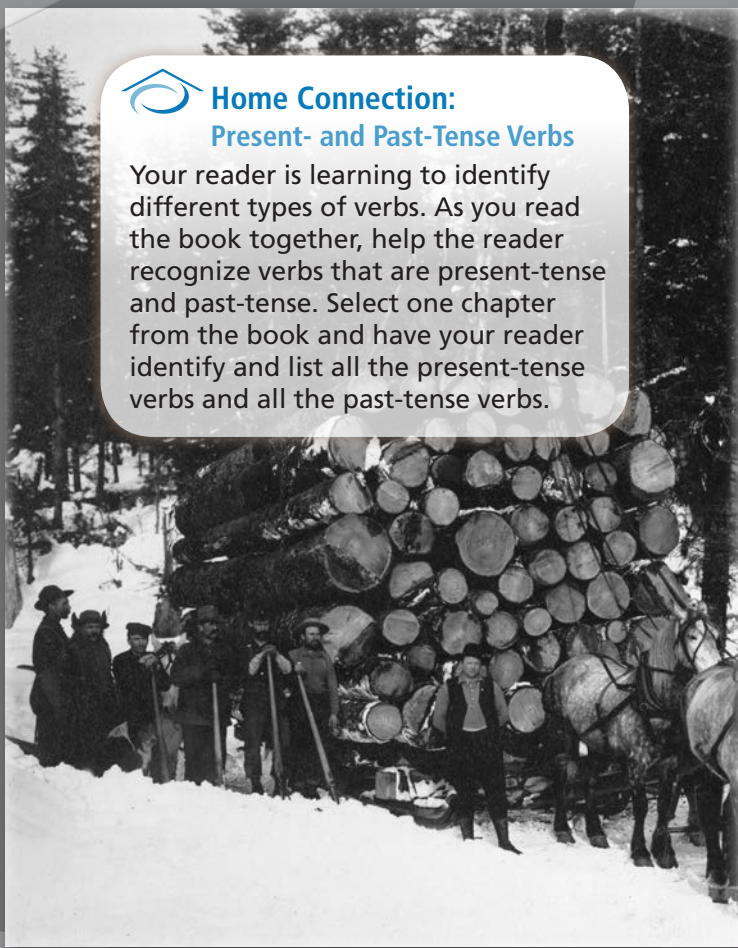
Word Count: 816



Home Connection:

Present- and Past-Tense Verbs

Your reader is learning to identify different types of verbs. As you read the book together, help the reader recognize verbs that are present-tense and past-tense. Select one chapter from the book and have your reader identify and list all the present-tense verbs and all the past-tense verbs.



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Shared Reading Book
Level 3
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Contents

Why Jobs Change	4
Food	6
Streets	8
Communication	10
Office Work	12
Bowling	15
Banking	16
Future Jobs	17
Glossary	18

Why Jobs Change

The fire siren blasted. Horses' hooves thundered as they galloped. Firefighters needed to get to the fire. It may be hard to imagine horses pulling fire engines, but long ago it was a common sight. The firefighters needed the horses. They were proud of their strong, smart, fast animals. Eventually, though, gas-powered firetrucks replaced the horses. This **invention** changed firefighters' jobs.



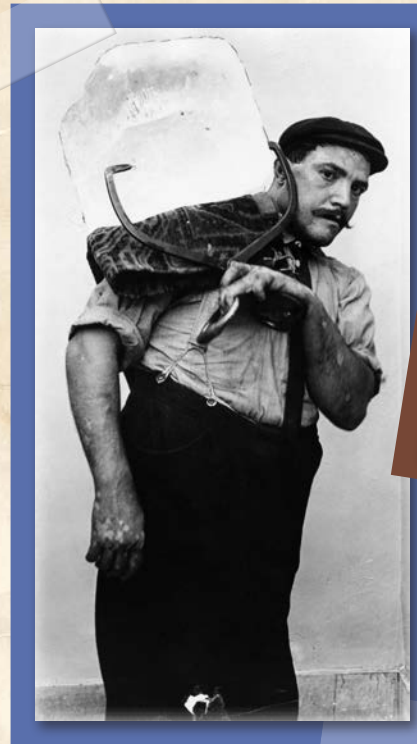
Today, firefighters don't need to know how to handle horses.



Over the years, the way people do different jobs has changed. Cars, electricity, computers, and other types of **technology** have changed the way work is done. Some **careers** change. We may no longer need people to do certain jobs, and we may need people to do new jobs.

Food

We need to keep our food fresh. Before electric refrigerators became common, people stored their fresh food in an **icebox**. An icebox held a large block of ice inside that kept the icebox and the food inside it cold. When an ice block melted, the icebox needed a new one. An iceman delivered those large blocks of ice to people's homes.



The iceman had to be strong to deliver ice to homes.

Where did the icemen get their ice?
They got it from ice cutters. Ice cutters were people who cut blocks of ice from frozen lakes and rivers. They delivered the ice to icemen.

We still need fresh food, but in many places the old jobs have changed. Instead of icemen and ice cutters, refrigerator-**repair** people keep our refrigerators running.



This ice cutter (right) is using a special tool to pick up chunks of ice.

7

Streets

We need to light some of our streets at night. Long ago, lamplighters lit gas street lamps with matches. Each lamplighter carried a ladder. He lit each street lamp at night and put it out in the morning.

Today in many places, we use electric street lights. No one needs to turn them on or off. They are on **automatic** timers.

We still need to light our streets, but the old job has changed. Instead of lamplighters, people working for electric companies make sure our street lights work.



The lamplighter often climbed up a ladder to light street lights.

8

We need our streets to be clean, too. Long ago, people only had brooms to sweep city streets. Today in many places, special trucks with spinning brushes clean our city streets.

We still need clean streets, but some of the old jobs have changed. Instead of people sweeping streets with brooms, people drive street-cleaning trucks today.



Cleaning city streets with a broom takes a lot of time and energy.

Communication

We like to talk on the phone. Long ago, telephone **operators** used a **switchboard** to connect people making calls. A telephone operator plugged a caller's phone line into the line of the person they were calling. Today, computers connect most telephone calls.

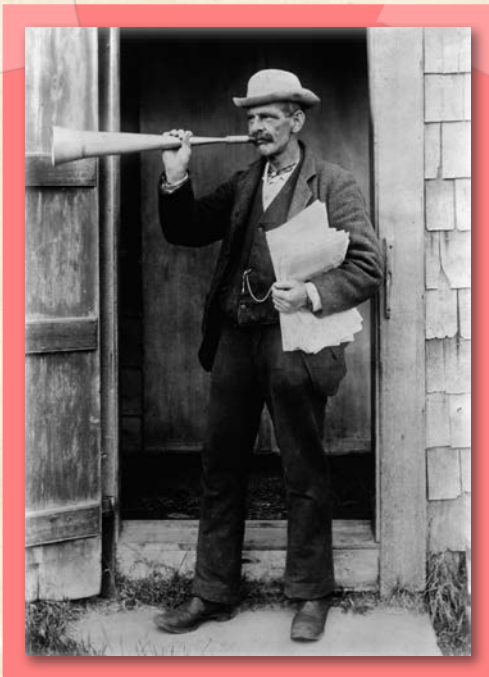
We still talk on the phone, but the job has changed. Instead of switchboard operators, we need computer experts to keep the phone company computers working.



Telephone operators wore headsets to listen to callers.

We like to know what's happening in our world. Long ago, town criers announced the news. They stood in the middle of town and called out the news so people nearby could hear it. Today, we get the news from newspapers, television, radio, and the Internet.

We still want to know the news, but the old job has changed. Instead of town criers, we need people who work for newspapers, television, radio, and the Internet to report the news.



This town crier rang a bell to get people's attention. He used a megaphone to make his voice louder.

Office Work

We need copies of some of our letters and other papers. In the 1800s, letters and other papers were written out by hand. Bosses hired copy clerks to copy important papers. The clerks copied them by writing them out by hand.



Copy clerks often stood or sat on high stools while they worked.

Over the years, people invented many different copy machines. Offices no longer hired people to copy papers by hand. Instead, they hired people to run the copy machines.



Copy clerks used copy machines like this one in the 1950s.

13

Today, many people make copies with computer printers or modern copy machines.

We still need to make copies, but the old jobs have changed. Instead of people copying papers by hand, we need computer and copy machine experts to keep these machines running well.

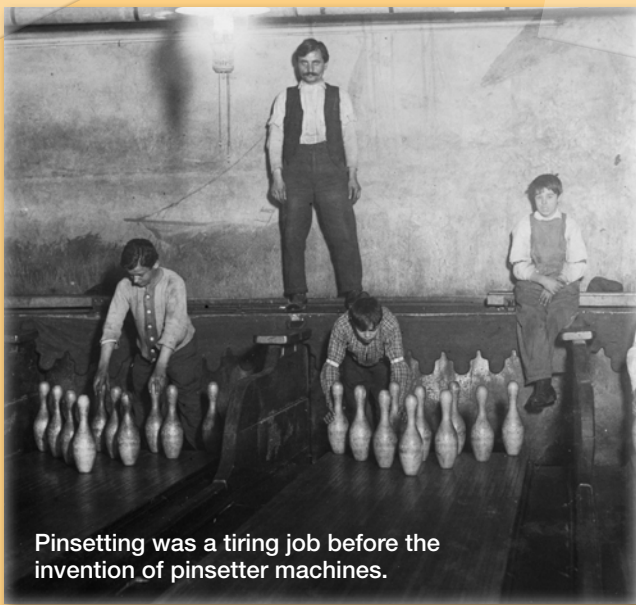


14

Bowling

Many people like the sport of bowling, which is very old. Long ago, people had jobs as pinsetters. They picked up the pins bowlers knocked down and set them back up. In the early 1950s, bowling alleys began using automatic pinsetters.

Bowlers still need their bowling pins picked up, but the old job has changed. Instead of people picking up the pins, we need people who can fix the pinsetter machines.



Pinsetting was a tiring job before the invention of pinsetter machines.

15

Banking

Many of us keep our money in banks. Years ago, banking was always done with a person called a bank teller. Today, there are fewer bank tellers because people go into banks less often. They can use automated machines, or they can bank online using a computer.

We still use banks, but the old jobs have changed. There aren't as many bank teller jobs, and now we need automated teller machine and computer experts to keep these new ways of banking working smoothly.



This bank teller worked before the invention of ATMs.

16

Future Jobs

As time goes by, new inventions will continue to change how work is done. As we move into the **future** some jobs will end while new jobs will begin.



Cars will change, but we will always need people who can repair them.

Glossary

- automatic** (*adj.*) operating without human control (p.8)
- careers** (*n.*) the meaningful work people perform, usually with opportunities for greater success (p.5)
- future** (*n.*) the period of time after right now (p.17)
- icebox** (*n.*) an appliance for keeping food cold that was in use before refrigerators were invented (p.6)
- invention** (*n.*) a new device or process (p.4)
- operators** (*n.*) people who control the functioning of a machine or other equipment (p.10)
- repair** (*v.*) to fix (p.7)
- switchboard** (*n.*) an electric panel where telephone calls can be connected (p.10)
- technology** (*n.*) the use of scientific knowledge or tools to make or do (p.5)