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Unit 1 – Something That Doesn't Exist

alternate / bland / convert / intense / navigate / pedestrian / require / retire / revert / sparse

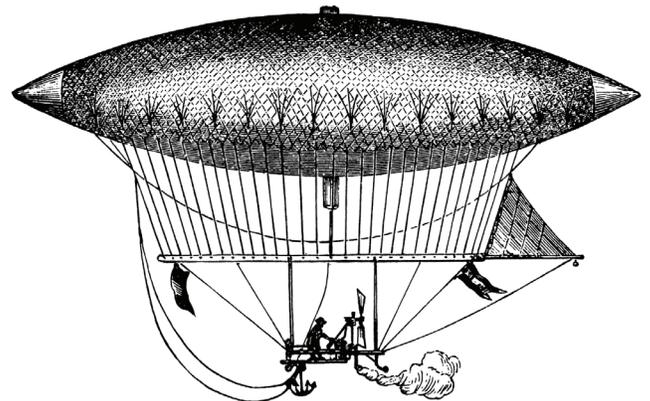
1A Introduction

Have you ever invented anything? You might have some idea that being an inventor means wearing a white lab coat and spending time tinkering with something in a dusty basement. But that's not true at all. The power of invention is in all of us. As Robert Kennedy once famously said, "There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask 'why?' ...I dream of things that never were, and ask 'why not?'"

1B Song Lyrics

*Think of something that just doesn't exist and say, "Why not?" Why not?
Think of something that just doesn't exist and say, "Why not?" Why not?
(x2)*

All the things that you use on the daily,
Didn't always exist; man, it's crazy.
Like someone once invented a shoe,
Invented a cup, invented some glue.
One day some dude taking a stroll with a scroll,
Thought, "Having one long page gets in the way,
I'm like a ship that's lost, can't **navigate**,
Can't find my favorite passage on the page."
So he thought for a minute, took a long look,
Then that dude invented the book!
And you can do it too; your mind's free,
Just think, "What do kids **require** and need?"
When you make that thing, you'll find fame,
And if it becomes big then you'll get paid.
Like I was drinking a soda; it was kind of **bland**,
The taste wasn't strong, then I hatched a plan.
I mixed some juice with some fruits and some candy too,



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I call it *Fruit Candy Juice*®; you'll be buying it soon.
My inventions aren't normal, they're not pedestrian,
I want to make something to help **pedestrians**,
The people who walk on sidewalks; well, I'll make
A sidewalk that moves like an escalator.
So you can sip your *Fruit Candy Juice*®
While the sidewalk moves—tell me that's not cool!

Hook

A rapper raps, an inventor invents,
Air conditioners make the heat less **intense**,
Less strong; that's perfect since the rhymes I've got
Could leave the whole studio feeling sweaty and hot.
But lucky for me, that invention was made
Many years before my hot songs were played.
But if I quit rap, or if I **retire**,
I'd invent a machine to change ice to fire.
And not only would it be able to change and **convert**,
It would also do the opposite and **revert**.
Yeah, that's right, it would be so nice,
My machine would turn fire back into ice.
“Yeah, machines like that are **sparse**,
There aren't many around, I mean, near or far.”
But what I do wish I could have right now
Is a new **alternate** way to get around.
A different way than a train or car,
Like a backpack-jet that would take me far.
Or maybe a jacket that comes with wings,
I think that would be such an awesome thing.

Hook

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1C Words Defined

alternate / bland / convert / intense / navigate / pedestrian / require / retire / revert / sparse

alternate

(adj) 1. Happening or appearing in turns; every other. *Spring and fall are **alternate** seasons.* 2. Being a choice between two or more things. *The highway was closed so we took an **alternate** route through the city.*

(verb) To change back and forth; take turns. *The young lion cub **alternated** between sleepiness and playfulness.*

bland

(adj) Lacking a strong flavor. *That taco is so **bland**; I swear there's more flavor in a cup of water.*

convert

(verb) To change from one form to another. *They **converted** the old school into an apartment building.* 2. To change someone's religion, opinion, or beliefs. *I love dogs and my sister loves cats, so she's always trying to **convert** me into a cat person*

(noun) One who has been converted. *I didn't think I liked jazz, but after seeing Branford Marsalis perform, I'm a total **convert**.* (Note: In its noun form, convert is usually pronounced CON-vert.)

intense

(adj) Very strong; very great. *Brandon likes movies, but not flicks in which the violence is too **intense**.*

Other forms: *Calvin started the work with real **intensity** (noun).*

navigate

(verb) 1. To move or direct (a ship or plane) along a certain path. *In her old fishing ship, the captain carefully **navigated** the river.* 2. To make one's way. *It was so crowded that it was difficult to **navigate** through the crowd.*

Other forms: *Thanks to our **navigation** (noun) system, we knew just where to go.*

navigate



pedestrian

(noun) A person who is walking; someone traveling on foot. *The mayor wanted to close some streets to cars to make the city more friendly to **pedestrians**.*

(adj) Dull or lacking imagination. *Tommy looked like a rock star, but his songs were **pedestrian**.*



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require

(verb) To need or demand. *My school **requires** you to get good grades if you want to go to the winter dance.*

Other forms: *My mom said, "Cleaning up after yourself is one of the **requirements** (noun) of getting older."*

retire

(verb) To stop working. *My grandfather worked for the post office until he **retired** last year.*

revert

(verb) To go back to an earlier condition, often one that is not satisfactory. *The basketball team got along well when they won, but when they lost, they **reverted** to yelling at each other.*

sparse

(adj) Small in number or extent; thinly scattered. *Our class trip to the farm was canceled because interest was so **sparse**.*

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1D Synonyms

Circle the word on the right that matches the meaning of the word or phrase on the left.

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1. few in number	sparse	bland	intense
2. to stop working	retire	convert	require
3. lacking flavor	alternate	intense	bland
4. to change back and forth	convert	alternate	revert
5. very strong	bland	intense	sparse

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1E Fill in the Blank

Write the word in the blank so that the sentence makes sense.

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1. When Sofie went to Mexico, she had to _____ her money from dollars to pesos.

retire**convert****revert**

2. That movie was so _____; I've seen the same story a million times.

pedestrian**sparse****intense**

3. The werewolf _____ back into a man when the sun came up.

required**retired****reverted**

4. Mr. Shrenk _____ us to do four hours of homework a night—that's too much!

requires**converts****alternates**

5. My dad got a GPS for Christmas; it's a tool that helps him _____ while he's driving.

revert**retire****navigate**

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1F Connections

Each sentence or group of sentences has a strong connection with one of the words from the unit. Write the correct word on the line below.

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1. Ms. Blankley doesn't own a car; she walks everywhere she goes.

2. I never used to like cartoons, but ever since I saw Kung Fu Panda, I go to see every cartoon that comes out.

3. The new version of the computer program didn't work, so Pete had to go back to using the old version.

4. My dad has been in the Air Force since he was 20 years old, so when he's 40, he can quit working forever.

5. The store had sold out of the soda I usually drink, so I had to choose a different flavor.

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1G Applying Meanings

Circle the letter that makes sense or answers the question.

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1. What would be an **intense** experience?

- (A) washing your hands
- (B) taking a nap
- (C) climbing a mountain
- (D) walking your dog

2. A **bland** dinner would not be

- (A) expensive
- (B) flavorful
- (C) filling
- (D) healthy

3. Which of these would probably have the most **sparse** attendance by kids?

- (A) a "How to Read Latin" workshop
- (B) a pizza party
- (C) a free trip to the zoo
- (D) a class on designing video games

4. A lifeguard at a pool would be **required** to

- (A) make a lot of money
- (B) get out of work
- (C) clean the pool
- (D) know how to swim

5. Which would be hard to **navigate**?

- (A) an expensive shirt
- (B) a hungry baby
- (C) a disgusting kind of food
- (D) a busy street

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1H Reading

Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.

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Bring on the Bikes

Cars have changed our lives in many ways. When cars were **sparse**, it was not easy to travel long distances. Now, you can hop in your car and go almost anywhere you want to, quickly and easily.

Many bad things come with cars, however. For one thing, cars **require** gas, and there is only a limited amount of gas in the world. As we use more of our gas supply, it becomes more expensive to drive. Also, gas releases harmful chemicals into the air when it burns. Still another problem is that cars are dangerous: Car accidents are the top cause of death for people between the ages of 6 and 27. Cars are even dangerous for people who aren't in them: In 2001, 90,000 **pedestrians** were injured by cars in the United States, and 5,800 pedestrians were killed.



If we want to be safe and save the planet, we need an **alternate** way to travel. Cars may make it easy to travel long distances, but most people don't travel long distances every day. For many people, the answer is a type of transportation that has been around since long before cars: bikes!

Cities around the world recognize that bikes are a great way to travel. Amsterdam, the Netherlands, is called the "bike capital of the world." In Amsterdam, bicycles make up 40% of all travel. Most roads have bike lanes. In fact, it is easier to get to most places by bike than it is by car.

Some American cities are starting to follow Amsterdam's lead. In Portland, Oregon, you can get anywhere in the city on a bike—there are 170 miles of bike lanes. It is easy to **navigate** the entire city on a bike without going out of your way. Drivers in Portland are

also used to bikers. They have become friendly about sharing the roads with bicycles.

Many Americans don't feel safe riding bikes on busy streets. However, if the streets were more bike-friendly, people might be more willing to give up their cars. As Americans become more aware of the dangers and costs of driving, more and more people are turning to this Earth-friendly, healthy way to travel.

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1. What are two bad things about gas?

2. How many pedestrians were killed by cars in 2001?

3. Where is the “bike capital of the world”?

4. Why is Portland, Oregon, a good city for biking?

5. What is one reason why many Americans don't ride bikes?

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11 Thinking Creatively

Answer each question below. Don't be afraid to think creatively.

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1. What is something that is **intensely bland**?

2. If you could **retire** from school, what would you do instead?

3. Write the first sentence to a story called *The **Alternate** Penguin*.

4. Describe an **intense** experience you've had.

5. What kind of personality traits do you **require** in your friends?

Word Breakdown

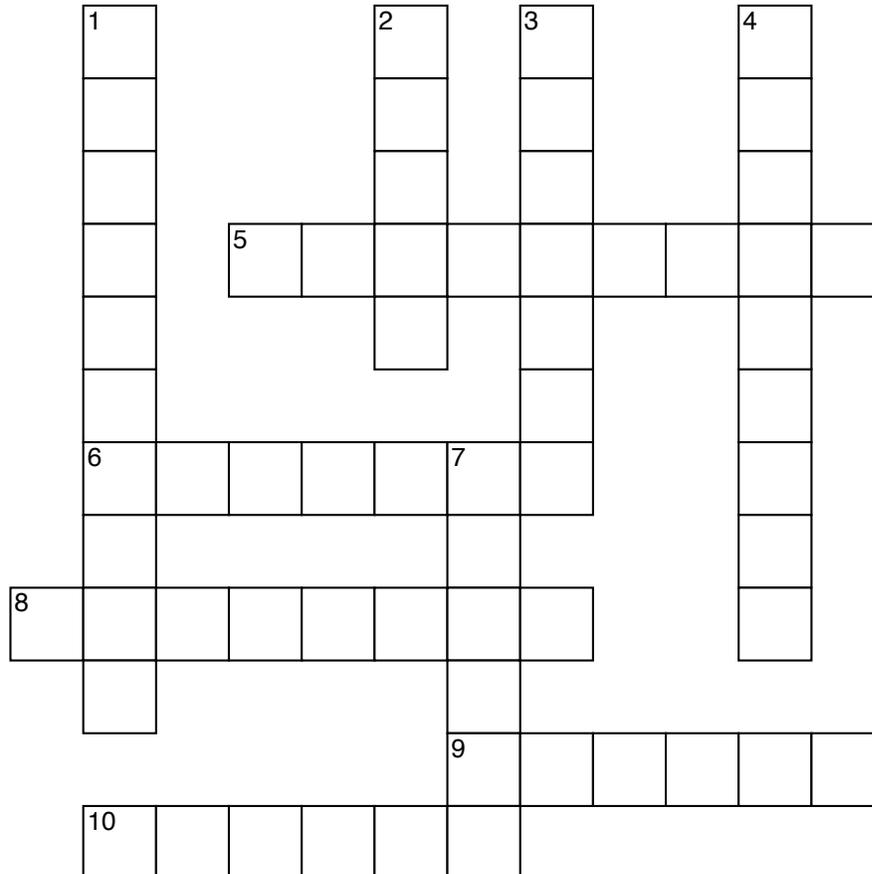
The word *pedestrian* can mean either "one who walks" or "dull and regular." The original meaning is "one who walks," which comes from the prefix *ped-*, meaning "foot." The word came to have its second meaning when pedestrians were compared to *equestrians*, meaning "people on horses." Apparently, it used to be considered "dull and regular" to walk when you could take a horse instead!

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Bonus: Crossword Puzzle

Solve this crossword puzzle. Note: Some answers may be different forms of the vocab words from this unit.

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ACROSS

- 5 When Marcy got married, she _____ from Catholic to Muslim.
- 6 My parents _____ that I make my bed before I go to school.
- 8 It took Greta a long time to _____ through the crowded department store.
- 9 To go back to an earlier condition.
- 10 In small numbers.

DOWN

- 1 Wilson's poem was pretty _____. He could have come up with a better first line than "Roses are red, violets are blue."
- 2 Lacking a strong flavor.
- 3 Brock and Jordan have an _____ hatred of each other; they can't even be in the same room without fighting.
- 4 I thought we should walk down Main Street, but my friend knew of an _____ route that was faster.
- 7 To stop working.