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# Reading Check

# Stage 3

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Student Name

/ /

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Date

**sm-**

**1**

smash ☆

smooth ☆

smiling ☆

1

**sn-**

**2**

snack ☆

sneeze ☆

snowstorm ☆

1

**wr-**

**3**

wrench ☆

wrist ☆

wrestle ☆

2

**tw-**

**4**

twelve ☆

twentieth ☆

tweezers ☆

2

**dw-**

**5**

dwelling ☆

dwindle ☆

dwarf ☆

2

**wor-**

**6**

worker ☆

worship ☆

worthwhile ☆

3

**-ment**

**7**

judgment ☆

department ☆

argument ☆

3

**-ful**

**8**

awful ☆

beautiful ☆

doubtful ☆

4



prove ☆	growl ☆
through ☆	laugh ☆
alarm ☆	enough ☆
rather ☆	country ☆
thought ☆	cough ☆



oy ☆
ar ☆
oi ☆
-ce ☆
ch ☆
ai ☆
oa ☆
ir ☆
-dge ☆
-tion ☆



☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

4A

Do you know what a blackbird is? I bet you're thinking of a bird that looks like a crow. Perhaps you know the song about four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie.

But there's another kind of blackbird. It's a spy plane and is one of the most powerful aircraft seen by mankind. It can travel up to three times the speed of sound. It is shaped smoothly to reduce its radar footprint. It is able to fly from the West Coast to the East in one hour and four minutes. This makes it the fastest aircraft in the world.

The Blackbird was used by the Government for twenty-five years. It has been used by NASA for experiments. Some experts say that the Blackbird was more useful than anything in space because no one knew it was there. It would sneak up behind you and be gone before you knew it.

Just 32 of the aircraft were built between 1966 and 1998. You can see a Blackbird now in the Air and Space Center



**in-**

**1**

increase ☆  
instance ☆  
injure ☆

5

**in-**

**2**

industry ☆  
invention ☆  
invisible ☆

5

**de-**

**3**

design ☆  
describe ☆  
defense ☆

6

**de-**

**4**

decline ☆  
deceive ☆  
detective ☆

6

**-ine**

**5**

engine ☆  
masculine ☆  
routine ☆

7

**-ine**

**6**

submarine ☆  
machine ☆  
magazine ☆

7

**-ous**

**7**

nervous ☆  
tremendous ☆  
various ☆

8

**-le**

**8**

middle ☆  
handle ☆  
shuffle ☆

8

**-tle**

**9**

bristle ☆  
whistle ☆  
castle ☆

8



direct ☆  
kissed ☆  
known ☆  
juice ☆  
shine ☆

examine ☆  
gentle ☆  
ginger ☆  
alive ☆  
active ☆

aw ☆  
qu- ☆  
thr- ☆  
scr- ☆  
sn- ☆  
dw- ☆  
-nge ☆  
-ous ☆  
ge-, ge- ☆  
-ieve ☆



8A

On July 2, 1900, a man introduced a new engineering wonder to the world. The machines to which he gave his name were expensive to build. As it turned out, they were also delicate.

His name was Count Zeppelin. No one in the USA had heard of him at that time. However, the Zeppelin was to become a household word.

The Zeppelin was a giant rigid airship, which was filled with hydrogen gas. Zeppelins were driven by two engines which were fixed below it. But the engines of the first Zeppelin were far too small to be effective. It had to be taken apart. Zeppelin 2 wasn't much better and was destroyed in a storm. But the Zeppelin 3 design worked well. The last Zeppelin, called the Hindenburg, was number 129.

By the 1920s, Britain, France, Italy and the USA were all building airships, but the Hindenburg impressed the whole world. The Hindenburg was 800 feet long and 135 feet wide. This is four times longer than a 747 airplane.

In 1937, the Hindenburg made a flight across the Atlantic to the USA. Thousands of people came to watch its landing. The beautiful, gleaming, airship came gently down to its landing point. Suddenly, it gave a jerk. There was a flash of flame and it exploded. A moment later, its whole length crumpled to the ground. Its crew and passengers all died.



**-al**

**1**

capital ☆

metal ☆

several ☆

9

**-al**

**2**

royal ☆

equally ☆

universal ☆

9

**en-**

**3**

engage ☆

encounter ☆

endure ☆

10

**op**

**4**

oppose ☆

opinion ☆

opposition ☆

10

**-or**

**5**

harbor ☆

flavor ☆

behavior ☆

11

**-cious**

**6**

delicious ☆

suspicious ☆

spacious ☆

11

**soft c**

**7**

voice ☆

scene ☆

cellar ☆

12

**soft c**

**8**

necessary ☆

civilized ☆

cylinder ☆

12



beautiful ☆

snare ☆

twinge ☆

smudge ☆

soldier ☆



## 12A

Mia, Luis and Diego entered the back workshop of the garage. They saw Tomas having an argument with a boy who was sitting on a motorbike.

“Look, Pablo,” said Tomas, “That’s not your bike, and you can’t ride one anyway, so get off.”

The motorbike was on its rear stand in the middle of the workshop. Pablo shrugged his shoulders and said, “Look, that’s the front brake, that’s the clutch, that’s the gearbox and here’s the ignition.” Then he turned on the ignition and the engine started up.

“Get off!” shouted Tomas.

“It’s easy!” yelled Pablo, over the engine noise. He suddenly gave a jerk, and hit the gearshift as the bike bumped forward off its stand. They all knew in a flash that Pablo meant to ride the bike out of the garage.

The rear wheel of the bike came straight down on to a pool of oil. The wheel spun around, and the bike slid to one side and then suddenly pulled away. It went straight at the corner of the garage. The front wheel hit the leg of a bench and the bike bounced back before it lurched again. Then it fell over, throwing Pablo to one side.

The engine stalled. All at once there was silence. Pablo got to his feet and scowled at the others. They were laughing so hard they couldn’t speak. He was red in the face and covered with blotches of oil and dirt.



**-nge**

1

strange ☆  
dangerous ☆  
challenge ☆

13

**-age**

2

passage ☆  
average ☆  
advantage ☆

13

**-ege**

3

college ☆  
privilege ☆

13

**ense**

4

sense ☆  
tense ☆  
defense ☆

13

**-cy**

5

policy ☆  
emergency ☆  
efficiency ☆

14

**sur-**

6

surround ☆  
survey ☆  
survive ☆

14

**-ice**

7

officer ☆  
advice ☆  
police ☆

15

**u**

8

cruel ☆  
distinguish ☆  
January ☆

15

**gg**

9

stagger ☆  
dragged ☆  
suggestion ☆

15

**ch**

10

character ☆  
mechanic ☆  
technique ☆

16



engage ☆  
language ☆  
passenger ☆  
metal ☆  
sincere ☆

delicious ☆  
influence ☆  
science ☆  
survive ☆  
operation ☆

ai ☆  
oy ☆  
oa ☆  
ph ☆  
-nge ☆

kn- ☆  
shr- ☆  
-ous ☆  
-ieve ☆





16A

Doctors worked on Anne's eyes to get some of her sight back. She worked hard at school and became a star scholar. One of the most important techniques that she learned there was the hand alphabet for deaf people. For a person who is deaf-blind, words are shaped on the surface of the hand.

In 1886, the teacher in charge of the school suggested to Anne that she work with a child who had been deaf-blind since she was a baby. This six year old girl was called Helen Keller. She could not hear, could not see and had no language.

Anne said yes. Helen was not an easy student and it was a challenge to get her to learn. But Anne had a strong character and was determined that she would not give up on Helen. Soon, Helen learned her first word by using the hand alphabet. After that, Helen began to learn with speed and efficiency.

Later on, Anne also taught Helen how to speak. When Helen went to college in 1900, Anne went with her to translate her books into hand language. They worked as a team for the rest of Anne's life.

Helen Keller became well known. She said that Anne was the one who had made her fame possible. Helen said that Anne was the one who deserved the praise. Anne had found a way to teach Helen and gave her the freedom to live a whole life.



**gu**

**1**

- guess ☆
- disguise ☆
- guardian ☆

17

**bu**

**2**

- build ☆
- busy ☆
- business ☆

17

**-gn**

**3**

- design ☆
- foreign ☆
- campaign ☆

18

**-gn-**

**4**

- recognize ☆
- dignity ☆
- significant ☆

18

**dis-**

**5**

- distance ☆
- discovery ☆
- dispute ☆

19

**dis-**

**6**

- disturb ☆
- distinction ☆
- disaster ☆

19

**-ate**

**7**

- immediate ☆
- hesitate ☆
- operate ☆

20

**-ate**

**8**

- deliberate ☆
- appropriate ☆
- associate ☆

20



stage ☆	pierce ☆
sparkle ☆	countries ☆
gracious ☆	biography ☆
caught ☆	enormous ☆
eighty ☆	idle ☆
suppose ☆	-

-ine ☆
-cious ☆
-or ☆
ch, ch ☆
er ☆
ew ☆
-tion ☆
ice ☆
nge ☆
sur- ☆



## 20A

Thomas Edison's first recording machine was a simple sort of thing. It used a roll of metal to record on. He spoke a few words of a nursery rhyme into it, and then set it to play back to him. The funny, squeaky voice on the machine spoke to him quite clearly. It said, "Mary had a little lamb, its fleece was white as snow." That was well over a hundred years ago in 1877.

He competed with others to be the first to design and build a machine that could record and play back sound. Edison got there first.

Edison is, of course, famous for other inventions. He never stopped making things. He made an electric light bulb, and switches and fuses. He also designed a machine which could make electric power. He spent a lot of time improving the working of the telephone and the telegraph. He helped to design cameras for film-making.

He played a part in the invention of the typewriter. He designed new ways to improve the making of cement and concrete. He built an electric train. He was still hard at work and full of new ideas when he was 80 years old.

One of the most amazing things about Thomas Edison was that he had no training as a scientist. He had great problems learning in school and left early, without a diploma. He was self-taught after that. He is one of a very few such men in history. They were men who had a kind of genius for inventing things.



**-tial**

1

essential ☆  
confidential ☆  
influential ☆

21

**-cial**

2

official ☆  
especially ☆  
artificial ☆

21

**-ant**

3

instant ☆  
elephant ☆  
pleasant ☆

22

**-ance**

4

instance ☆  
importance ☆

22

**di-**

5

divide ☆  
divorce ☆  
difficulty ☆

22

**-ent**

6

content ☆  
silent ☆  
apparently ☆

23

**-ence**

7

presence ☆  
sentence ☆  
independence ☆

23

**-ssion**

8

impression ☆  
possession ☆  
depression ☆

24

**-sion**

9

vision ☆  
confusion ☆  
explosion ☆

24

**-sian**

10

Asian ☆  
Persian ☆

24



suspicion ☆	sergeant ☆
fashion ☆	pleasant ☆
guarantee ☆	circuit ☆
efficient ☆	recognize ☆
campaign ☆	practice ☆



qu-	☆
ee	☆
-dge	☆
-ent	☆
-ous	☆
igh	☆
-ate	☆
oo, oo	☆
-ieve	☆
ow, ow	☆



## 24A

When a human heart comes to a stop the person dies. That is simply because the heart is a pump. If it stops, the body, which depends on that pump, also stops. It is this pump which keeps our blood on the move, from the end of each toe to the top of the head.

As blood circulates it collects carbon dioxide. This is the waste matter in the blood stream. The carbon dioxide makes the blood darker as it is collected. The blood then takes on the more purple color, and it is this that we can see showing in our veins. The blood returns to the right chamber of the heart, from where it is pumped to the lungs for cleaning. Then it carries on to the left chamber of the heart. From there the clean blood is pumped out once more to circulate around the body. This constant pumping and cleaning goes on without a stop until we die.

More and more people now live to be 100 years old. That means their hearts have been pumping non-stop for a century. We can only wonder when a computer will be built that can last that long!



**-cle**

**1**

uncle ☆  
obstacle ☆  
vehicle ☆

25

**-fle**

**2**

rifle ☆  
trifle ☆  
stifle ☆

25

**-ble**

**3**

valuable ☆  
miserable ☆  
tremble ☆

25

**per-**

**4**

personal ☆  
perceive ☆  
perfectly ☆

26

**pur-**

**5**

purpose ☆  
pursue ☆  
purple ☆

26

**-lar**

**6**

regular ☆  
particularly ☆  
similarity ☆

27

**ia**

**7**

familiar ☆  
Canadian ☆  
appreciation ☆

28

**ia**

**8**

trial ☆  
diamond ☆  
liar ☆

28

**ea**

**9**

idea ☆  
theater ☆  
European ☆

28



aloud ☆  
brought ☆  
shove ☆  
whose ☆  
initial ☆

scarce ☆  
beautiful ☆  
chronicle ☆  
purchase ☆  
perform ☆

-cion ☆  
-cial ☆  
-sion ☆  
-fle ☆  
-tion ☆  
per- ☆  
au ☆  
-ceive ☆  
ch, ch ☆



28A

The movies used to be in black and white with no sound. Then in the 1920's there were considerable changes in how films were made.

Once actors could talk on screen it changed their performances. Soon, sound and color in films were the norm. As films became more popular, the film makers had a great deal of power. They controlled the actors, the theaters and ticket sales.

By 1939 there were more movie theaters in the US than there were banks. Hollywood was the main center of film making in the world, not just in the USA. The Golden Age of film ended when the Supreme Court ruled this control had to change. More changes came when TV found a place in all homes. Theaters were empty and the business went into decline.

Yet, the medium of film did not die. There were still people who liked to watch a film on a night out. The movie business used new technology and changed the way films were made and shown. Wide screens and drive-ins were all part of the show. They made sure that they could give you something you couldn't get on TV.

Now, film makers use DVDs and gaming to do the same thing. The movies are a big business and have come a long way from the orange groves of Hollywood.



**-y-**

**1**

psychology ☆  
 sympathy ☆  
 systematic ☆

29

**im-**

**2**

immediately ☆  
 improvement ☆  
 impulse ☆

30

**ex-**

**3**

existence ☆  
 experiment ☆  
 exchange ☆

31

**-ete**

**4**

complete ☆  
 completely ☆  
 depleted ☆

32

**-tious**

**5**

ambitious ☆  
 conscientious ☆  
 contentious ☆

32



peculiar ☆	article ☆
idea ☆	apparently ☆
area ☆	advance ☆
pursue ☆	evidence ☆
industrial ☆	genius ☆



wh-	☆
ch, ch	☆
ce-	☆
phy-	☆
sy-	☆
sur	☆
-ence	☆
ar	☆
ay	☆
ea, ea	☆





32A

After the war with Mexico (1846-1848), the homestead movement got bigger. People who came to the States from Europe were ambitious to make a new life so moved west. When the South left the Union, a major stumbling block to homesteading was removed.

In 1862, the Homestead Act passed into law. The new law had three steps to owning land: filing a claim, improving the land, and filing for deed of title. Any U.S. citizen could apply and in exchange for improving the land and building a dwelling, the homesteader could file for the deed to own the land after 5 years.

Physical existence for the homesteader was very hard. Crops were blown down by strong winds and blizzards in the winter. The summers were scorching and had swarms of insects. Fuel and water supplies were short, so simple cooking and heating chores were hard. The plots on the dry plains were too small to grow large crops. The landscape made grazing livestock on the prairie difficult. In many places, the experiment failed and the homesteader did not stay on the land long enough to make a final claim.

However, homesteaders who toughed it out were rewarded with excellent chances for wealth and a new life. By 1934, over 1.6 million homestead claims had gone through the system and more than 270 million acres given over. In 1976 the Homestead Act was stopped in 48 states, but homesteading was allowed in Alaska until 1986. The state of Nebraska has the national memorial to the Homestead Act.



**-cient**

1

ancient ☆  
sufficient ☆  
sufficiently ☆

33

**-tient**

2

patient ☆  
impatient ☆  
patiently ☆

33

**-cian**

3

musician ☆  
politician ☆  
technician ☆

33

**-cise**

4

exercise ☆  
precise ☆  
precisely ☆

34

**-ual**

5

individual ☆  
mutual ☆  
unusual ☆

34

**-tory**

6

victory ☆  
factory ☆  
satisfactory ☆

35

**-cc**

7

account ☆  
according ☆  
accompany ☆

35

**-sure**

8

treasure ☆  
pressure ☆  
assure ☆

36

**-ture**

9

mixture ☆  
manufacture ☆  
structure ☆

36



similar ☆	museum ☆
physical ☆	ambitious ☆
able ☆	examine ☆
type ☆	brilliant ☆
purpose ☆	complete ☆

ch, ch ☆
-tient ☆
-tial ☆
au ☆
thr- ☆
per- ☆
-ance ☆
-dual ☆
-tory ☆



36A

The oil industry grew as a direct result of the motor car. More precisely, it was because of the internal combustion engine, which burns the gasoline made from oil.

Oil is formed from the remains of plants and creatures living millions of years ago and the weight of tons of rock pressed on those remains. This caused a gradual chemical change. Crude oil is the end result of that process. To obtain the oil, a gigantic drill works its way down from the surface and breaks into the lake of oil. The liquid, which has been trapped and compressed under the weight of the rock above it, rushes to the surface.

There are two main problems for the oil industry. First of all, scientists have to locate the oil-bearing rocks. Then, the oil engineers have to drill at exactly the right spot. Some drills have to drill into the ground as deep as four miles down before oil is found. When the oil is found, it has to be moved, often by pipeline. Some pipelines are over 1,000 miles in length. One of the largest pipelines in the world runs through Alaska.

Second, we now know that the sources of crude oil will run dry. Our way of life depends on oil. Large amounts of oil are used in industry, for fuel and to run cars. When the oil runs out we will need to replace it with things such as solar and nuclear power. But each of these has its own drawbacks. This means that finding a replacement for crude oil is a slow process.



**io**

**1**

- opinion ☆
- curious ☆
- pioneer ☆

37

**ior**

**2**

- superior ☆
- interior ☆
- junior ☆

37

**com-**

**3**

- compare ☆
- committee ☆
- competition ☆

38

**-ic**

**4**

- traffic ☆
- economic ☆
- domestic ☆

38

**-ical**

**5**

- medical ☆
- historical ☆
- practically ☆

38

**con**

**6**

- control ☆
- concern ☆
- confess ☆

39

**con**

**7**

- continent ☆
- confidence ☆
- considerable ☆

39

**sub-**

**8**

- submit ☆
- substance ☆
- submarine ☆

40



usually ☆	accomplish ☆
oxygen ☆	actual ☆
ocean ☆	measure ☆
style ☆	patient ☆



-sian ☆
-tious ☆
-sure ☆
-dual ☆
-cize ☆
igh ☆
ci- ☆
ture ☆
cy-, cy- ☆
-ic ☆



## 40A

We have had many pioneers in our country and some have had a big impact on us all, like Henry Ford.

When he was young, Ford was curious and tinkered with things. As an adult, Ford became an engineer in Detroit. He was able to combine his time and money to work with car engines.

In 1903, Henry Ford started the Ford Motor Company. He reached his dream of making a car that was affordable and reliable when he made the Model T in 1908. This car was very popular.

Ford changed car-making completely in 1913. He made a moving assembly line. This took the car parts by moving belt to the workers. The speed was constant to keep the line running smoothly. His clever idea in car making reduced substantially the time it took to make a car, and made it cheap to make.

Ford's company became the largest car-maker in the world because there was no competition that could beat the Model T. Ford's company helped to change America because cities changed and suburbs grew; the highway system expanded. We connected to a love of the open road. Ford saw many of these changes before his death in 1947.



**-ology**

1

psychology ☆

apology ☆

biology ☆

41

**-x-**

2

anxious ☆

anxiety ☆

luxury ☆

42

**-cc**

3

succeed ☆

accelerate ☆

accident ☆

42

**-gue**

4

vague ☆

league ☆

rogue ☆

43

**-que**

5

unique ☆

technique ☆

picturesque ☆

43

**pro-**

3

provide ☆

production ☆

proceed ☆

44



committee ☆

success ☆

traffic ☆

according ☆

anxious ☆

psychology ☆

technical ☆

accept ☆

electric ☆

vague ☆

kn- ☆

qu- ☆

sub- ☆

-tient ☆

-ive ☆

-sure ☆

ph ☆

-cian ☆

-or ☆



44A

In deep sea diving, the human body goes a long way under water. The body feels pressure which is related to the depth it is under the water. The weak parts of the human body which can be particularly affected by this are the ears and the lungs.

If a diver descends to a very deep level of water, there is real danger. Because of pressure, our bodies are unable to get rid of the nitrogen which we breathe in. At this depth the nitrogen being absorbed into the bloodstream begins to affect the brain. The diver becomes confused and gets into a condition described as “raptures of the deep”.

If he then comes quickly to the surface, the nitrogen will cause his blood to bubble, and he could die. This danger is known as “the bends”. The only way to avoid the bends used to be for the diver to come up to the surface very slowly. The modern method is for him to go into a special tank called a decompression chamber. In this chamber the pressure is the same as it was under water. Very gradually the pressure is adjusted, until it is equal to that at ground level.

So the next time you dive, and feel the pressure on your ears, watch out!



pre-

2

- pretend ☆
- preparation ☆
- prescribe ☆

45

-ative

5

- negative ☆
- demonstrative ☆
- representative ☆

46



figure ☆	tongue ☆
violence ☆	example ☆
resistance ☆	substitute ☆
gigantic ☆	machinery ☆
prepare ☆	symbol



ch-, ch-	☆
-nge	☆
-cion	☆
-ance	☆
cir-	☆
pre-, pre-	☆
pre-	☆
-ture	☆
-ble	☆
-ology	☆
-tient	☆





48A

Martin Luther King Jr. came from a humble family, and like the inventor Edison or the businessman Ford, his name was to become a household word. He was the most important voice in the movement of equal rights for all. He was famous for using nonviolent methods to stand against injustice. He did all he could to make us realize that “all men are created equal”. The history of his work gives an indication of the enormity of his achievements.

King believed that, as a Christian pastor, he had to be nonviolent. He believed that violent protests would ruin the struggle for change. King and others were willing to go to jail for the cause of civil rights. Others criticized him for his conviction.

In 1963, King led mass protests against the practice of discrimination in Birmingham, Alabama. King was arrested and jailed for his part in the civil protests. After he was released from jail, King took part in the huge civil rights march on Washington DC in August 1963. This is where he delivered his famous “I have a dream” speech. He predicted a time when freedom and equality for all would become a reality in America.

He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. After that, he led the movement to increase voter sign-up among the African-American population. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968 during a visit to Memphis, Tennessee. His birthday is observed as a national holiday on the third Monday in January. He is one of the foremost names in American history.



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