

Reading

Jobs of Yesterday

Read the text and match the gaps (1-6) with the correct sentence parts (a-h). There are two extra variants you don't need to use.

Have you ever wondered (1) _____ made everything so easy? In the past, people had to do everything by hand, including jobs that we now take for granted. Here are some fascinating professions from the past that you've probably never heard of!



One profession that has become obsolete is the lamplighter. Before streetlights had automatic timers, a lamplighter would go around every evening to light each street lamp by hand. It was a dangerous job, especially in bad weather, and the lamplighter had to be careful (2) _____. And have you ever heard of a town crier? This was a person (3) _____, before the invention of newspapers or radios. They would shout out important news and events, and often wore elaborate costumes to get people's attention. It was an important job in a time (4) _____ and relied on oral communication. Another interesting job from the past was the knocker-up. This was a person who woke people up in the morning (5) _____. Before the invention of alarm clocks, the knocker-up was the only way to make sure you woke up on time. They had to be reliable and punctual, as people depended on them to get to work or school on time.

Another job that's lost is the elevator operator. Before automatic elevators, an operator would manually control the elevator and take passengers to their desired floors. It was a job that required a lot of physical effort, as the elevator operator had to open and close the elevator doors by hand and manually stop the elevator at each floor. Ice cutters were also a crucial profession before the invention of refrigerators. They had to be skilled and experienced, as harvesting ice was a dangerous job. They had to cut large blocks of ice (6) _____ and haul them to shore using horse-drawn sleds.

These are just a few examples of how much the world has changed, and how many professions have become obsolete as a result of technological advancements and societal changes.

- A who was paid to cry at funerals of important people;
- B who made public announcements in the streets;
- C from the frozen surface of the water;
- D what life used to be like before technology;
- E how did people work before computers;
- F when most people were illiterate;
- G not to burn themselves or start a fire;
- H by tapping on their windows with a stick.

