

Unit 6

Unit 6 Passage 1: The Printing Press: A Revolution in Communication

The printing press is one of the most important inventions ever. It was created by Johannes Gutenberg in the 15th century and changed how people shared information. Before it, books were copied by hand, which was slow and expensive. Only the rich had books, and knowledge was hard to spread.

With the printing press, books could be made faster and cheaper. This made reading and learning available to more people. The printing press also helped share ideas. One of the first books printed was the Bible, allowing more people to read it and learn about different beliefs. This was a big change, as people didn't need priests or scholars to read to them.

The printing press also helped spread new ideas about science, politics, and art. Martin Luther's 95 Theses, which challenged the Catholic Church, were printed and spread across Europe. This helped start the Protestant Reformation, changing religion in Europe. It also helped spread scientific ideas.

Today, modern printers are still used to print books, newspapers, and magazines. The printing press helped start mass communication and still shapes how we share information today.

Reading comprehension

A. Answer the questions.

1. Who invented the printing press?

2. What was the main problem with books before the invention of the printing press?

3. How did the printing press make books more available?

4. What was one of the first books printed on the printing press?

5. How is the printing press used in modern times?

B. Choose the correct answers.

- When was the printing press invented?
 - 14th century
 - 15th century
 - 16th century
- What was one of the first books printed on the printing press?
 - The Bible
 - The Quran
 - The Constitution
- How did the printing press change the way books were made?
 - It made books harder to read.
 - It made books cheaper and faster to produce.
 - It made books smaller.
- What role did the printing press play in the Protestant Reformation?
 - It helped spread Martin Luther's 95 Theses.
 - It printed books in many languages.
 - It helped people learn how to read.
- What do we use today that is similar to the printing press?
 - Photocopiers
 - Modern printers
 - Typewriters

Vocabulary

A. Fill in the blanks.

Choose the correct words in parentheses to complete the sentences.

(books, spread, knowledge, invention, ideas, accessible)

- The printing press helped _____ new ideas about science and religion.
- Before the printing press, _____ were expensive and rare.
- The printing press made _____ easier for many people.
- The invention of the printing press was an important _____ in history.
- The printing press helped to make _____ available to a larger group of people.
- The printing press made new ideas _____ to people in Europe.

B. Choose the correct answers.

1. What does "Knowledge" relate to?
 - a) Learning new things
 - b) A book
 - c) A tool
2. What does "Books" relate to?
 - a) Printed pages
 - b) A tool
 - c) Information
3. What does "Printing Press" relate to?
 - a) A tool for making copies
 - b) A book
 - c) Learning
4. What does "Accessible" relate to?
 - a) Easy to get or use
 - b) A type of book
 - c) A person
5. What does "Invention" relate to?
 - a) A new creation
 - b) A tool
 - c) A person

Writing

A. Rewrite the sentences.

Rewrite the sentences using **as....as**, **not as....as**.

1. The printing press was important for education. The internet is important for education.

2. The smartphone is useful for communication. The telephone is useful for communication.

3. The handwritten books spread knowledge slowly. The printing press spread knowledge quickly.
