

Classwork- week 16

Topics: Main idea and suffix “Ous”

Reading

► Read the selection and answer each question.

Are We There Yet?

by Ellen R. Braaf

¹ America's interstate highway system connects our nation coast to coast. It's smooth and fast and gets us where we want to go. But it hasn't always been that way.

Cars Create Chaos

² In 1893 Charles and Frank Duryea turned a broken-down horse carriage and a gasoline engine into the first gas-powered American automobile. It had no brakes. To stop it, they ran it into the curb, but there was no stopping its popularity. By 1905 forty-eight thousand Americans had cars.

³ Early driving was dangerous. The first cars broke down regularly. People got lost, got stuck, and got into accidents. Roads were so narrow that cars going in opposite directions couldn't get around each other. Worst of all, most roads were unpaved dirt tracks.

⁴ To make things even worse, there were no driving rules. Traffic in urban areas was chaotic. A mixture of people, bicycles, horse-drawn wagons, and new motor cars crowded the streets.

⁵ In 1908 the New York police chief established the city's first "rules of the road." Slower vehicles had to keep right, so faster ones could pass on the left. Drivers had to signal with their hands to let others know they were about to slow, stop, or turn.

⁶ The city of Cleveland installed the first electric traffic signals. Red meant stop; green meant go. Other cities used a third colored light—yellow—to signal caution. Some cities installed only red traffic lights, the top one to stop north-south traffic and the bottom one to stop east-west traffic.

⁷ Outside the cities, driving was no easier. Along the bad roads, few signs guided the way. To try to improve car travel, people formed groups called trail associations that adopted roads and named them, printed guidebooks, posted directions, hung warning signs, and repaired the roads. Unfortunately, the associations did not work together. They sometimes claimed the same roads, named them differently, and posted a variety of confusing signs anywhere they wanted.

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The Right Direction

⁸ Clearly, people across the country would have to cooperate to improve the roads. To do this, the new Bureau of Public Roads formed partnerships with the states to repair old roads and build new ones. They ended the trail associations and organized the jumble of roads into a system. Main roads got U.S. route numbers: odd-numbered routes ran north-south and even-numbered routes ran east-west. They painted lines to mark traffic lanes and posted speed limits.

⁹ Finally, car travel was beginning to make sense. It was high time, too, since by 1927 Americans owned 20 million cars.

My Way Is the Highway

¹⁰ In the 1950s the economy boomed, and Americans bought bigger, faster cars. People wanted to get places fast, and the old two-lane state highways wouldn't do.

¹¹ The idea for a continuous system of highways linking every state didn't start with President Dwight Eisenhower, but he made it happen. As a young army officer in 1919, he had crossed the United States in a truck. It took him 62 difficult days. In Europe during World War II, he admired the splendid roads he saw. As president, Eisenhower was convinced that America needed a modern, coast-to-coast system of highways that would ease traffic crowding, improve travel safety, and help small towns grow.

¹² In 1956 the interstate highway system began to take shape. Planners designed the highways to be the same throughout the system. For instance, each lane is 12 feet wide. In both directions, the divided highway has a 4-foot-wide shoulder on the far left and a 10-foot-wide breakdown lane on the right. Green signs mark exits and directions; blue signs note services and rest areas. Even-numbered interstates run east-west, and odd-numbered interstates, north and south.

The Challenge Continues

¹³ Cars created chaos, but they made people think about how to solve the problems of bad roads and traffic confusion. Cars still challenge us today. Can we find cleaner fuels to burn? Can we keep up with highway repairs? We aren't there yet, but scientists and citizens alike are working hard to meet the continuing challenge of cars.

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1 Read the sentences from paragraph 2.

It had no brakes. To stop it, they ran it into the curb, but there was no stopping its popularity.

What is the meaning of brakes as it is used above?

- (A) signs of damage
- (B) pauses during the day
- (C) devices that slow down a car
- (D) divides into several different parts

2 What main idea is supported by the details in paragraphs 5 and 6?

- (A) The use of signals improved driving safety in cities.
- (B) New driving rules were very difficult to follow.
- (C) The first electric signals had only one red light.
- (D) City officials were busy repairing old roads.

3 What caused the trail associations to fail?

- (A) a lack of effort
- (B) a lack of money
- (C) a lack of interest
- (D) a lack of cooperation

4 How did the Bureau of Public Roads affect driving in the late 1920s?

- (A) by developing some of the earliest traffic signals
- (B) by organizing the roads into an orderly system
- (C) by completing the interstate highway system
- (D) by encouraging people to buy faster cars

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5 Which **two** statements are central ideas of the article?

- Ⓐ The earliest cars were simpler and much easier to drive.
- Ⓑ There are still driving challenges that people are trying to solve.
- Ⓒ Newer highways were divided into odd- and even-numbered routes.
- Ⓓ It took a lot of time and effort to establish safe driving rules and highways.
- Ⓔ The interstate highway system was constructed to make car travel more pleasant.

7 Read the sentence from paragraph 11.

The idea for a continuous system of highways linking every state didn't start with President Dwight Eisenhower, but he made it happen.

Think about the suffix **-ous**. What is the meaning of continuous above?

- Ⓐ without traffic delays
- Ⓑ without safety problems
- Ⓒ without gaps between roads
- Ⓓ without unnecessary rules or limits



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► Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Anna wrote a report about the history of popcorn. Read the first paragraph of Anna's report and look for any changes she should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

Popcorn

(1) People have been eating popcorn for many years. (2) In the mid-1900s, popcorn kernels that are thousands of years old were found buried in a cave in New Mexico. (3) Some of they had already popped before they got buried. (4) Very old kernels were also found in Mexico. (5) It were left there by early farmers. (6) According to one scientist, popcorn was the first kind of corn that people grew in North and South America. (7) Europeans brought popcorn to other parts of the world later on, when they began to explore the Americas.

1 What is the correct way to write sentence 3?

- (A) Some of they had already popped before them got buried.
- (B) Some of them had already popped before they got buried.
- (C) Some of they had already popped before it got buried.
- (D) No change is needed.

2 What change should be made in sentence 5?

- (A) Change *It* to **They**.
- (B) Change *It* to **You**.
- (C) Change *It* to **We**.
- (D) No change is needed.

3 What change should be made in sentence 7?

- (A) Change *they* to **it**.
- (B) Change *they* to **you**.
- (C) Change *they* to **them**.
- (D) No change is needed.