

Août 1998 II

TEXT

In the old days, the work of the world had been done by independent workmen who sat in their own little workshops in the front of their houses. They owned their tools, boxed the ears of their own apprentices, and within the limits prescribed by their unions, conducted their business as it pleased them. They lived simple lives, and were obliged to work very long hours, but they were their own masters. If they got up and saw that it was a fine day to go fishing, they went fishing and there was no one to say “no”.

But the introduction of machinery changed this. A machine is really nothing but a greatly enlarged tool. A railroad train, which carries you at the speed of a mile a minute is in reality a pair of very fast legs, and a steam hammer, which flattens heavy plates of iron, is just a very big fist made of steel.

QUESTIONS:

a)Vocabulary: (10 points)

5. Find synonyms of the following words and phrases in the text:

*in the past*

*in business for oneself*

*small*

*possessed  
learners*

6. Find antonyms (opposites) of the following words and phrases in the text

*in the back of  
borrowed  
as they liked it  
not complicated  
to deny them*

b) Reading comprehension and commentary: (10 points)

Answer the following questions

11. Choose the title you think is most appropriate for the text from the list below:

*The Good Old Days  
A Day's Work  
Mechanical changes in Work  
The Use of Apprentices*

12. Who owned the worker's tools?  
13. What kind of workers usually have apprentices?  
14. Why did the workers have to work very long hours?  
15. Were workers living a happy life in the old days? Justify your answer.

c) Grammar: (10 points)

Make a *noun-noun* combination as in the example:

Example: a fist made of steel --- a steel fist

1. A blouse made of nylon
2. A coat made of fur
3. A shoe made of leather
4. Socks made of cotton
5. A tie made of silk

d) Commentary: (10 points)

Generally, in many independent workers' workshops, you see young apprentices doing some hard work. What do you think of this situation? Should anything be done to regulate or ban the use of apprentices?