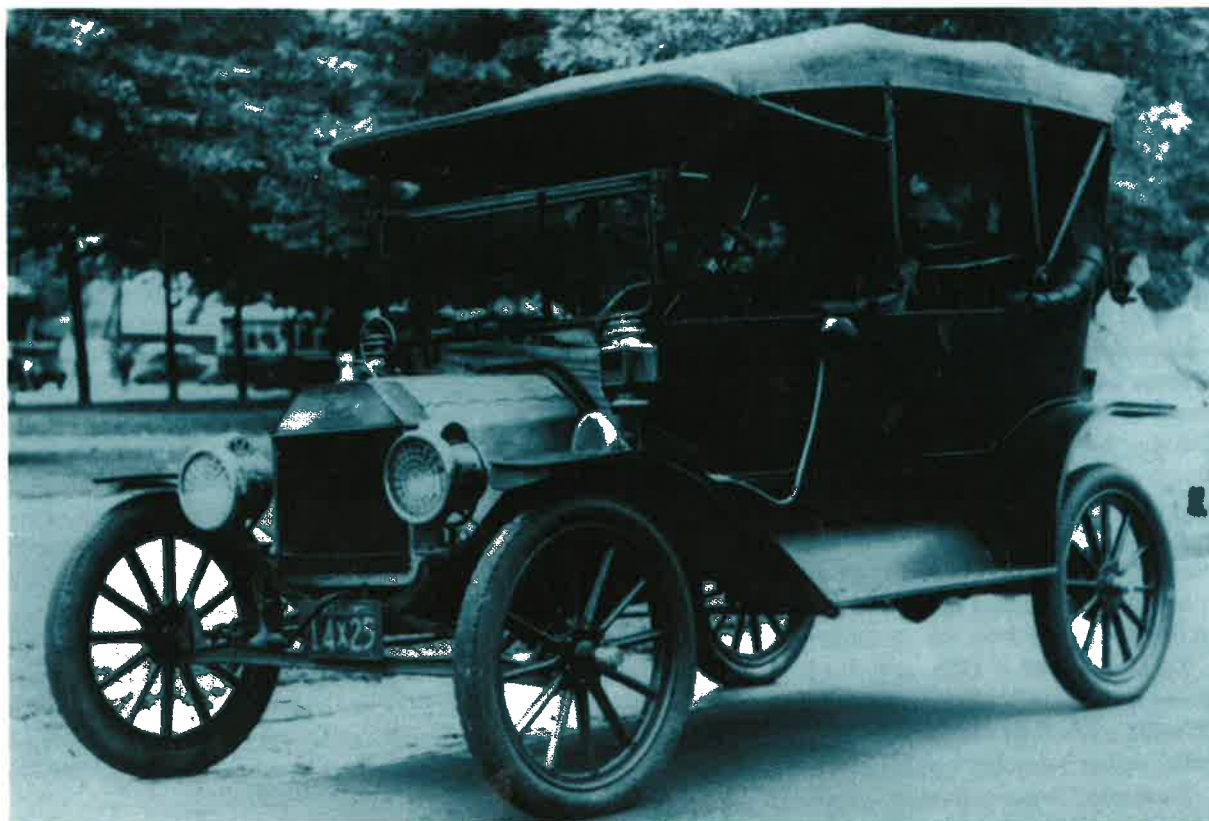


- 1 In the first years of this century the streets, highways, and country roads looked very different from the way they appear today.
- 2 Bicycles were widely used, but horses were the most common means of transportation. Horses pulled trolleys, fire engines, carriages, and various other city vehicles. And in the country, horses did most of the work, pulling cultivators, harvesters, and other farm equipment.
- 3 Gradually, strange motor-driven vehicles, the first "horseless carriages," began appearing on the streets. They made a racket, smelled awful, and scared horses and passersby alike; but everybody got used to them, even the horses.
- 4 Early in May 1909 a brand-new Model T touring car—the world would know it as a Tin Lizzie—rolled out of a great factory in Detroit, Michigan, in the northern United States. On that same day fifty-six other Model Ts were built.
- 5 A few days later, two Model Ts arrived on a train in a small town in the midwestern United States. The local car dealer was waiting at the station; once his Model Ts had been unloaded and tied one behind the other, a team of horses slowly pulled them over the old rutted dirt road into town.
- 6 Many persons came to inspect and admire the cars; among the first was George Barnhart, who owned the feed store.
- 7 One morning Barnhart and his entire family went to the car dealer's showroom to buy a Model T. After spending almost an hour learning how to operate the Tin

The Tin Lizzie

by Peter Spier



H. Armstrong Roberts

Adaptation of TIN LIZZIE by Peter Spier. Copyright © 1975 by Peter Spier. Reprinted by permission of Doubleday & Co., Inc. and William Heinemann Limited.

© 1989, 1978, Science Research Associates, Inc.

Printed in the United States of America. All rights reserved.

- Lizzie, Barnhart drove his entire family all over the town. Wherever they went, people stopped to stare and exclaim, "Look at that car—just look at that great new car!"
- 8 When they returned home, Barnhart and his children pulled their carriage out of the stable and carefully backed Tin Lizzie inside. Happy days followed, as Barnhart used his car more and more, for pleasure trips or an occasional business trip.
 - 9 Tin Lizzie was well cared for. Her brass was kept immaculately polished and Mr. Barnhart often went to the stable to buff the lanterns even when it was not really called for. Some problems occurred occasionally, as when the engine quit six miles out of town, and Barnhart had to walk home to get his horse to tow them back to his house.
 - 10 The children grew up and, in time, the two oldest were allowed to drive the Model T.
 - 11 In 1920, when the Tin Lizzie was eleven years old, and after it had travelled many, many miles, Barnhart traded it in for a new car.
 - 12 The dealer repaired the Model T, and waxed and polished it until it gleamed like new. But several weeks passed before it was finally bought by a young couple, who lavished every bit as much care and attention on it as George Barnhart had years before.
 - 13 The husband's employment took them far away from the small midwestern town and Tin Lizzie was driven west to California.
 - 14 There were some problems, such as the time the Model T was hit by a truck, and occasionally parts required replacement—but that was to be expected.
 - 15 Those were happy years indeed, because the young couple drove the Model T on trips as well as to work. One day the Tin Lizzie was driven at top speed to take the young husband and wife to the hospital. Several days later, the Tin Lizzie was driven back to pick up the wife and a new baby! This happened three more times over the next six years.
 - 16 In 1929, the husband decided to buy a new car, and so, for the second time, the Tin Lizzie was traded in.
 - 17 Times were hard in 1929, and nearly a year passed before Lizzie was finally sold to a farmer. Lizzie did different work now: carrying milk cans from distant fields, pulling heavy loads of hay, and hauling manure.
 - 18 The Model T began to show its age and the signs of the difficult work. The rear seats had been removed long ago, the stuffing of the front seat was showing through the torn leather, and one of the lamps hung at an angle.
 - Late in 1945, Tin Lizzie was finally retired behind the barn next to some ancient farm equipment.
 - 19 The farmer's children often played in and about the Tin Lizzie until they outgrew that sort of thing. Occasionally, friends of the farmer would "borrow" parts of the old vehicle, for many of them still had Model Ts of their own. Each spring after the last rain had fallen the Tin Lizzie had a bit more rust and a few more rips and tears in its top.
 - 20 Meanwhile, some things had changed: horses had disappeared from the farm, and their work was done by a tractor. Also, passing cars looked different each year.
 - 21 One day, bulldozers, scrapers, and earth movers came, building a great superhighway near the farm. Not long afterwards, a curious procession moved past the farm: thirty-four old cars, shining and sparkling like new, on their way to an antique car rally. The driver of one car spotted Tin Lizzie's shape half hidden by weeds, and he mentally noted the exact location of his discovery.
 - 22 The following weekend he returned, and after looking Tin Lizzie over, knocked on the front door of the farmhouse and asked the farmer if he would be interested in selling the Model T.
 - 23 The farmer said, "I might, and then again, I might not." However, he sold Tin Lizzie then and there.
 - 24 A few days later, the new owner came to fetch the Model T, and the farmer actually received more money for the Tin Lizzie than he had paid for it over forty years earlier.
 - 25 The new owner was a successful businessman, and a skilled amateur mechanic as well, who loved old cars, and over the next two and a half years, he lovingly restored Lizzie. He hunted all over the country for parts that were missing, and he painstakingly rebuilt the engine and the body.
 - 26 Finally the day arrived when Lizzie was moved out of the garage, and there the Model T stood reborn, shimmering in the sunlight, looking exactly as it had on the day it was built: The man who had wrought this miracle was just as happy as George Barnhart had been over half a century before.
 - 27 On beautiful weekends Tin Lizzie goes for drives in the country, on picnics, and to antique car rallies. People in other cars slow down as they pass, and turn their heads, and the children will always say, "Wow! Did you see that old car?"
 - 28 In the city, crowds gather wherever Lizzie is parked; and wherever the Model T goes, people stop and say, "Oh, look at that car, just look at that great old car!"

How Well Did You Read?

Write *T* if the statement is true according to the story.
Write *F* if the statement is false.

- 1 The main purpose of the story is to describe the history of transportation.
- 2 Review paragraph 2. The main purpose of that paragraph is to establish that horses were a common means of transportation before the automobile came into use.
- 3 Review paragraph 3. That paragraph shows that when cars first appeared they were considered to have several unattractive features.
- 4 Review paragraph 15. The main purpose of that paragraph is to show that the Model T played an important part in the young couple's lives.
- 5 Review paragraph 18. The main purpose of that paragraph is to show that all the Model T's owners treated the car with loving care and respect.

The sentences below describe events in the story. Put the four events in the correct order by lettering each one *a*, *b*, *c*, or *d*.

- 6 The Model T was sold to a farmer.
- 7 The new owner restored the Model T to its original condition.
- 8 A procession of antique cars passed the farm.
- 9 George Barnhart traded in the Model T for a new car.

Learn about Words

Vocabulary

A You can often tell the meaning of a word by reading the words around it.

Look at each number in parentheses. Find the paragraph in the story with the same number. Then find the word that fits the given meaning. Write the word.

- 1 loud noise; commotion (3)
- 2 drive; control (7)
- 3 spotlessly (9)
- 4 mended; put in good condition (12)
- 5 hard (18)
- 6 very old (18)
- 7 odd (21)
- 8 nonprofessional (25)

B A word may have more than one meaning.

Look at each number in parentheses. Find the paragraph in the story with the same number. See how the word in **heavy type** below is used in the paragraph. Decide whether it has meaning *a*, *b*, or *c*. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 9 **common** (2)
 - a ordinary; usual
 - b having no special rank or position
 - c coarse; vulgar

- 10 **spring** (19)
 - a elastic device
 - b small stream of water
 - c season after winter

Word Study

- C** The fox was **in the henhouse**.
I pointed **to the picture**.

The words in **heavy type** are prepositional phrases. Every prepositional phrase begins with a preposition (such as *in* or *to*) and ends with a noun. Some other common prepositions are *at*, *by*, *for*, *into*, *of*, and *up*. If the words in **heavy type** are prepositional phrases, write *PP*. If they are not, write *No*.

- 11 We walked **by the library** on our way home.
- 12 I live **in a small town**.
- 13 May I **borrow that book**?
- 14 Jan goes **to the new school**.
- 15 We camped **by a running stream**.
- 16 Gerta bailed the water out **of the boat**.
- 17 Freddie fainted **when I told him** the bad news.
- 18 Lannie climbed **up the hill** and waved to us from the top.

D Here are some more common prepositions: *before*, *after*, *over*, *under*, *about*, and *like*. Each sentence below contains two words in **heavy type**. If the two words are prepositions, write *Prep*. If they are not prepositions, write *No*.

- 19 She walked **over** the hill and **under** the bridge.
- 20 Janet went **into** the house **at** noon.
- 21 Help **me** hem this **dress**.
- 22 Sally went **to** school **before** nine.
- 23 My **sister** rushed out to **meet** me.
- 24 Jack **hung** the picture on **the** wall.
- 25 I jumped **over** the hurdle **like** a champion.
- 26 The **plate** shattered **when** I dropped it.

- E** They served **peas and carrots**.
Would you like to eat **now or wait awhile**?

The words *and* and *or* are conjunctions. Conjunctions are words that are used to connect other words or groups of words. In these examples, the word *and* connects the words *peas* and *carrots*. The word *or* connects the phrases *eat now* and *wait awhile*. Other common conjunctions are *but* and *for*. Read the sentences below. The words or word groups that need to be joined are in *italic type*. Choose the conjunction that makes the most sense. Write the conjunction.

- 27 We left at six (and, for) returned at seven.
- 28 I had to leave early (for, but) I had an appointment to keep.
- 29 Sue had bacon (but, and) eggs for breakfast.
- 30 I'd better learn to swim (or, and) I won't be able to water ski.
- 31 Marlene (or, and) John came to the party.
- 32 I would go with you (or, but) I have a class now.
- 33 You'll have to decide whether to go (or, but) to stay.

Use Your Imagination

With the coming of the automobile, life changed a great deal. Suppose you had a chance to live in the days before the automobile. Would you like to do so? Why, or why not? Discuss your ideas with a classmate or a friend.