

# Subways

## Pre-Reading



### A. Warm-Up Questions

- 1 Who drives a subway?
- 2 What do subway passengers do in an underground emergency?
- 3 How do subway builders make underground tunnels?

### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

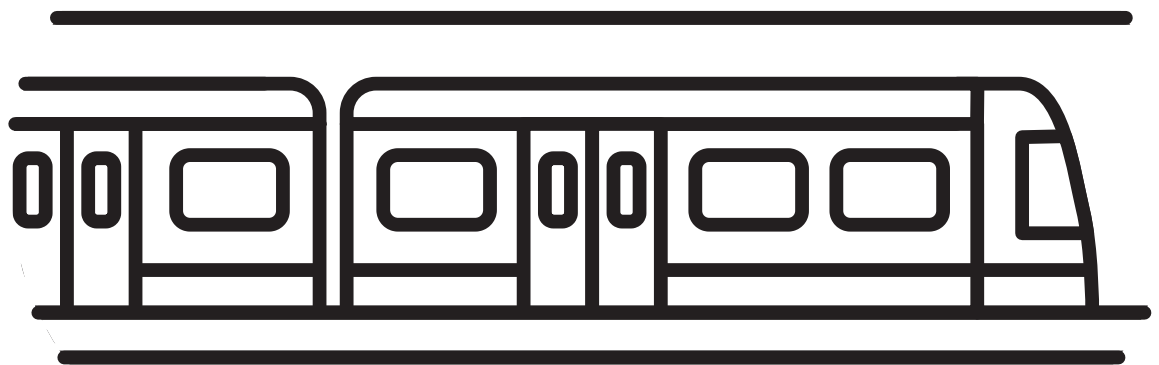
Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- |                   |                                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ 1 modern    | (a) a sudden danger or need           |
| _____ 2 sensor    | (b) in recent years                   |
| _____ 3 crowded   | (c) a group that works together       |
| _____ 4 emergency | (d) filled with many people or things |
| _____ 5 crew      | (e) technology that feels for changes |

# Reading

## Subways

- 1** Did you know that some subways have no drivers?  
**Modern** subways are automated. That means computers do the driving. These subways also have **sensors**. These sensors can feel fires or other **emergencies**. They talk to computers and tell the trains to stop when something is wrong. They also tell the doors to open.
- 2** Modern subway systems also have emergency tunnels called "shafts." These tunnels allow passengers to walk up to the street level. Today's subways are very safe.
- 3** The first subway system was in London, England. Many people moved to the city in the late 1800s. The roads became **crowded** with horses and cars. Subway **crews** dug the first systems by hand.
- 4** Modern crews use Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM) to dig subway systems. They sometimes find very old things underground. In Paris, subway crews found underground cemeteries filled with bones.



# Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers below.

**1** Who drives modern subways?

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**2** What do subway sensors do?

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**3** Where was the first subway system?

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**4** Why did people build subways in the late 1800s?

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**5** How do crews dig modern subways?

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## Bonus Question

Can you guess what subway crews found in Italy in 2004?

- a horse
- a train
- a shopping center
- a shipwreck

# Practice

## A. Crossword

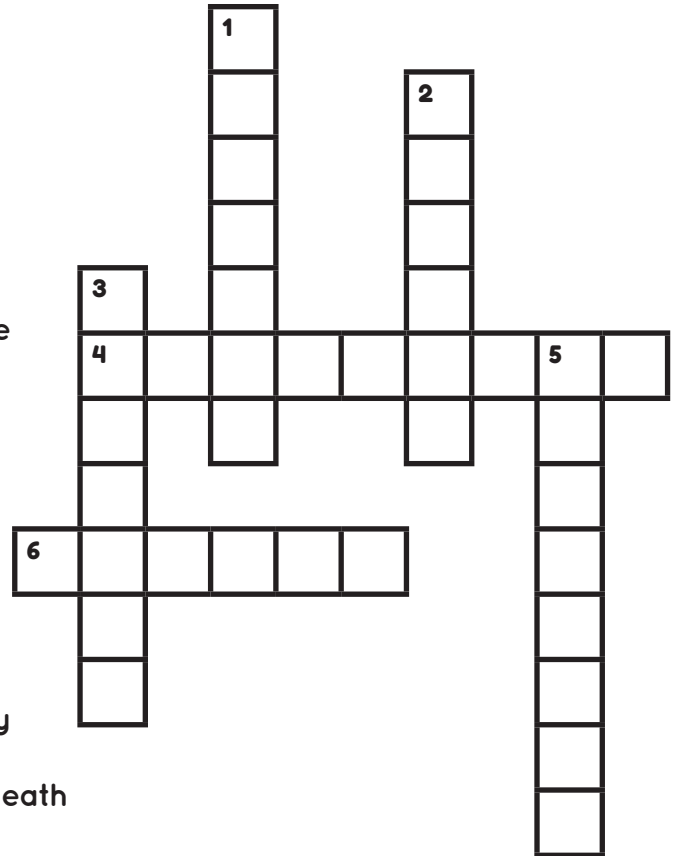
Read the clues and fill in the puzzle.

### Across

- 4 a major problem that can cause a lot of damage
- 6 in recent years

### Down

- 1 filled with lots of things or people
- 2 a long tube or hole, usually underground
- 3 these things feel for anything out of the ordinary
- 5 an underground place for human bodies after death



## B. Matchup

Draw a line between the matching words and examples.

### Words

- 1 sensor
- 2 tunnel
- 3 crowd
- 4 crew
- 5 emergency

### Examples

- a a flood
- b a group that works together
- c a tube for cyclists to go underwater
- d a device that searches for garbage on rail tracks
- e a large group of people watching a show

# Listening

Listen to a recording of this reading.

Fill in the gaps. Listen again and check your answers.

## Subways

- 1** Did you know that some subways have no drivers? \_\_\_\_\_ subways are automated. That means computers do the driving. These subways also have \_\_\_\_\_. These sensors can feel fires or other emergencies. They talk to computers and tell the trains to stop when something is wrong. They also tell the doors to open.
- 2** Modern \_\_\_\_\_ systems also have emergency tunnels called "shafts." These tunnels allow passengers to walk up to the \_\_\_\_\_ level. Today's subways are very safe.
- 3** The first subway system was in London, England. Many people moved to the city in the late 1800s. The roads became \_\_\_\_\_ with horses and cars. Subway \_\_\_\_\_ dug the first systems by hand.
- 4** Modern crews use Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM) to dig subway systems. They sometimes find very old things \_\_\_\_\_. In Paris, subway crews \_\_\_\_\_ underground cemeteries filled with bones.

# Answer Key

**Lesson Description:**

Students learn about subways through reading, speaking, listening, and vocabulary tasks.

**Level:** Int**Time:** 1-2 hours**Tags:** subways, reading, discussion, vocabulary, discovery

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## Pre-Reading

**A. Warm-Up Questions**

Answers will vary.

**B. Vocabulary Preview**

1. b      2. e      3. d      4. a      5. c

## Reading

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

## Comprehension

1. Computers drive modern subways.
2. Subway sensors feel emergencies and warn the train to stop.
3. The first subway system was in London, England.
4. A lot of people moved to London during the late 1800s. There was too much traffic on the roads.
5. Crews use Tunnel Boring Machines to dig modern subway systems.

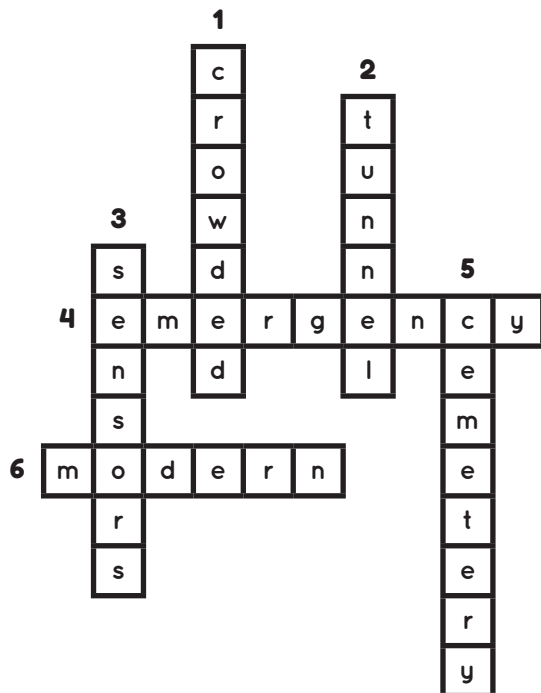
Bonus Answer: a shipwreck

**(continued on the next page...)**

# Answer Key cont.

## Practice

### A. Crossword



### B. Matchup

1. d      2. c      3. e      4. b      5. a

## Listening

1. Modern, sensors      3. crowded, crews  
2. subway, street      4. underground, found

### More Facts to Share:

1. One of the most difficult parts of building a subway line is making it waterproof. Floods can destroy a subway system.
2. The world has more than 150 subway systems.
3. Modern subways are washed with collected rainwater.
4. Subway systems use "geometry trains" to check for broken rails. The lasers on these trains also sense fire hazards.
5. Subways are very expensive to run and maintain. The ticket fare does not cover the costs.
6. People hid in subway tunnels in World War I and World War II.

### Spelling Note:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the word *Center*. Most other English-speaking countries spell it this way: *Centre*. Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.

### Editor's Note:

Young learners who complete a task quickly can color in the image on page 2.