

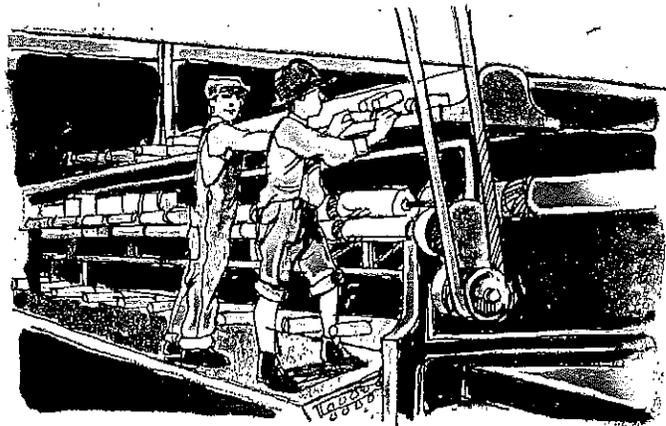
## READING COMPREHENSION

# The Battle Over Working Conditions

- (1) There was a time in America's past, when small children labored long hours under *inhumane* conditions. (2) *Exploited* by bosses and factory owners, the children were unable to attend school or even get enough sleep. In many cities, children worked fourteen- to eighteen- hour days, making everything from paper bags to clothes. (3) Pasting bags together and sewing clothes by candlelight often *impaired* their vision. (4) Adults were *inflicted* with injuries from these terrible conditions, too. (5) Chemical fumes *enveloped* people working in such dark, humid, and stuffy spaces, causing all sorts of health problems. During the winter, many suffered from the flu or pneumonia brought on by the lack of adequate ventilation or heat. (6) Often, these jobs allowed few or no breaks, so workers had little chance to go to the bathroom, let alone *rejuvenate* themselves by eating or resting.

(7) Workers' concerns were often *belittled* by their bosses, who acted as though the workers were simply being lazy. (8) *Forsaken* by powerful employers, workers began to organize groups to fight against these poor working conditions. Newspaper reports of unsafe and even fatal working conditions angered the public. In response, many concerned citizens supported the development of community centers, called Settlement Houses. (9) Some Settlement Houses provided medical treatment to *rehabilitate* those who had been injured in the workplace. Others provided shelter and nutritious meals.

The public also demanded more steps be taken to protect children in the workplace. In the early 1900s, a number of new laws were enacted that were meant



to limit children's exposure to danger in the workplace. Many states began to require that children be enrolled in schools. (10) These changes *facilitated* better lives for children in the United States. Adults also benefited from new workplace laws and from the growth of the organized groups, or unions.

In 1970, the federal government set up the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), an organization devoted to workplace safety. OSHA sets standards meant to protect U.S. workers.

Unfortunately, unsafe workplace conditions still exist. Reporters are still writing stories about people, including children, forced to labor in dangerous and unhealthy settings for hardly any pay. Organizations throughout the world are trying to stop this kind of exploitation. In addition, many people choose not to buy products from companies that have records of bad employment practices. It may be hard to imagine, but the money we spend has effects that reach from our own neighborhoods to countries around the world.

Each sentence below refers to a numbered sentence in the passage. Write the letter of the choice that gives the sentence a meaning that is closest to the original sentence.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Small children labored long hours under \_\_\_\_\_ conditions.  
a. pleasant                      b. brutal                      c. heroic                      d. decent
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ by bosses and factory owners, the children were unable to attend school or even get enough sleep.  
a. Paid well                      b. Used unfairly                      c. Caused pain                      d. Wrapped up
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Pasting bags together and sewing clothes by candlelight often \_\_\_\_\_ their vision.  
a. sharpened                      b. restored                      c. damaged                      d. assisted
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Adults were \_\_\_\_\_ with injuries from these terrible conditions, too.  
a. caused                      b. made new                      c. awarded                      d. made small

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Chemical fumes \_\_\_\_\_ workers.  
a. burned                      b. restored                      c. insulted                      d. surrounded
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Workers had little chance to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves by eating or resting.  
a. wrap around                      b. refresh                      c. assist                      d. harm
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Workers' concerns were often \_\_\_\_\_ by their bosses.  
a. devalued                      b. paid well                      c. abandoned                      d. promoted
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_ by powerful employers, workers began to organize groups to fight against poor working conditions.  
a. Abandoned                      b. Recharged                      c. Made young                      d. Damaged
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Some Settlement Houses provided medical treatment to \_\_\_\_\_ those who had been injured in the workplace.  
a. make use of                      b. cause harm to                      c. make young                      d. restore to health
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. These changes \_\_\_\_\_ better lives for children in the United States.  
a. surrounded                      b. protested for                      c. helped make                      d. lessened in importance

Indicate whether the statements below are TRUE or FALSE according to the passage.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. OSHA tries to ensure that American workers have safe and healthy workplace conditions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. In some countries, children are still used as laborers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Settlement Houses helped people to settle the frontiers of America.

## WRITE THE DERIVATIVE

Complete the sentence by writing the correct form of the word shown in parentheses. You may not need to change the form that is given.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The dictator's \_\_\_\_\_ was infamous throughout the region. (*inhumane*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Alzheimer's disease leads to \_\_\_\_\_ of thinking processes. (*impair*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Although I sew with \_\_\_\_\_, I cannot knit. (*facilitate*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the old building made it suitable for apartment living. (*rehabilitate*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The virus was completely \_\_\_\_\_ by the white blood cell. (*envelop*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. César Chávez fought against the \_\_\_\_\_ of migrant workers. (*exploit*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. A bird of prey defending its nest can \_\_\_\_\_ serious wounds. (*inflict*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Stop \_\_\_\_\_ my efforts to become a sculptor. (*belittle*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. He was in such a bad mood that he \_\_\_\_\_ his friends and spent the rest of the night alone. (*forsake*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The real key to \_\_\_\_\_ is getting enough sleep. (*rejuvenate*)