

# THE FERRIS WHEEL



Read the story and answer the following questions:

## THE INCREDIBLE MACHINE

Everyone has a favorite attraction at an amusement park, and I am no different. However, unlike most people who seem to prefer rollercoasters, my favorite ride is a little more gentle. Every time I go to Coney Island, Navy Pier, or the Santa Monica Pier, I absolutely have to ride the Ferris wheel. The Ferris wheel is simple and yet also quite complex. That is, riding it is easy, but how it works is complicated. A series of carts are attached to a wheel, which is attached to a rim. That rim rotates vertically around an axis, and gravity keeps the carts upright. As simple as the ride seems, only advanced engineers can make safe and fun Ferris wheels.

### What It Lacks in Thrills...

While the Ferris wheel is not as thrilling as a rollercoaster, it is still very exciting. The fact of being high in the air makes it so much more entertaining than a lot of rides. I mean, how often do you hang from that high up in daily life? Nevertheless, I have to admit, I don't seek Ferris wheels out because of their excitement. Rather, I find them very relaxing. At the top of the Ferris wheel, you get beautiful sights of the park. You also get a sense of calm that you don't get in the hustle and bustle of the park below. Additionally, Ferris wheels are also gorgeous to look at when they are lit up at night. In fact, the original Ferris wheel was designed as much to be seen as to be ridden.

### It Happened at the World's Fair

The first Ferris wheel was made by and named after George Washington Gale Ferris, Jr. He designed it for the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. It was the tallest attraction there, standing 264 feet high. However, visitors to the fair were impressed by the size of the ride as well as the mechanics of it. In 1893, anything that was not turned by hand was considered a sight to see. And the wheel, which was a machine, was truly incredible to see. Further, as one visitor put it, the wheel was amazing because it seemed to be missing support. That is, it did not look like it could stand on its own. And yet it did and even rotated!

### They Keep Reaching Higher and Higher

Ferris wheel technology has only improved since then. Most of today's Ferris wheels are much larger than that first one. The largest in the world is the "Singapore Flyer," which stands slightly taller than twice what Ferris's did! Today, the Ferris wheel is the most common amusement park ride. But that does not mean you should take them for granted. Instead, be thankful for Ferris's invention. The next time you're at an amusement park, don't just look up at the impressive wheel in the sky on your way to a newer attraction. Take it for a spin!

1) As used in paragraph 1, the word attraction most nearly means

- A. sense
- B. park
- C. ride
- D. vision

2) It can be understood that Coney Island, Navy Pier, and the Santa Monica Pier are all examples of

- A. amusement parks
- B. Ferris wheels
- C. vacation spots
- D. boat docks

3) As used in paragraph 2, which is the best antonym for complex?

- A. impressive
- B. beautiful
- C. exciting
- D. simple

4) What does the author like best about Ferris wheels?

- A. the impressive engineering and beauty of them
- B. the excitement and thrills they guarantee
- C. the beautiful sights and relaxation they allow
- D. the fact that most amusement parks have one

5) According to the passage, the Ferris wheel was originally designed for

- A. Coney Island
- B. the world's fair
- C. Disneyland
- D. Singapore

6) This passage was most likely written to

- A. describe the author's favorite amusement park rides
- B. explain the original design of Ferris wheels and how they work today
- C. describe the history of Ferris wheels and why they are so popular
- D. explain the history of Ferris wheels and why the author likes them

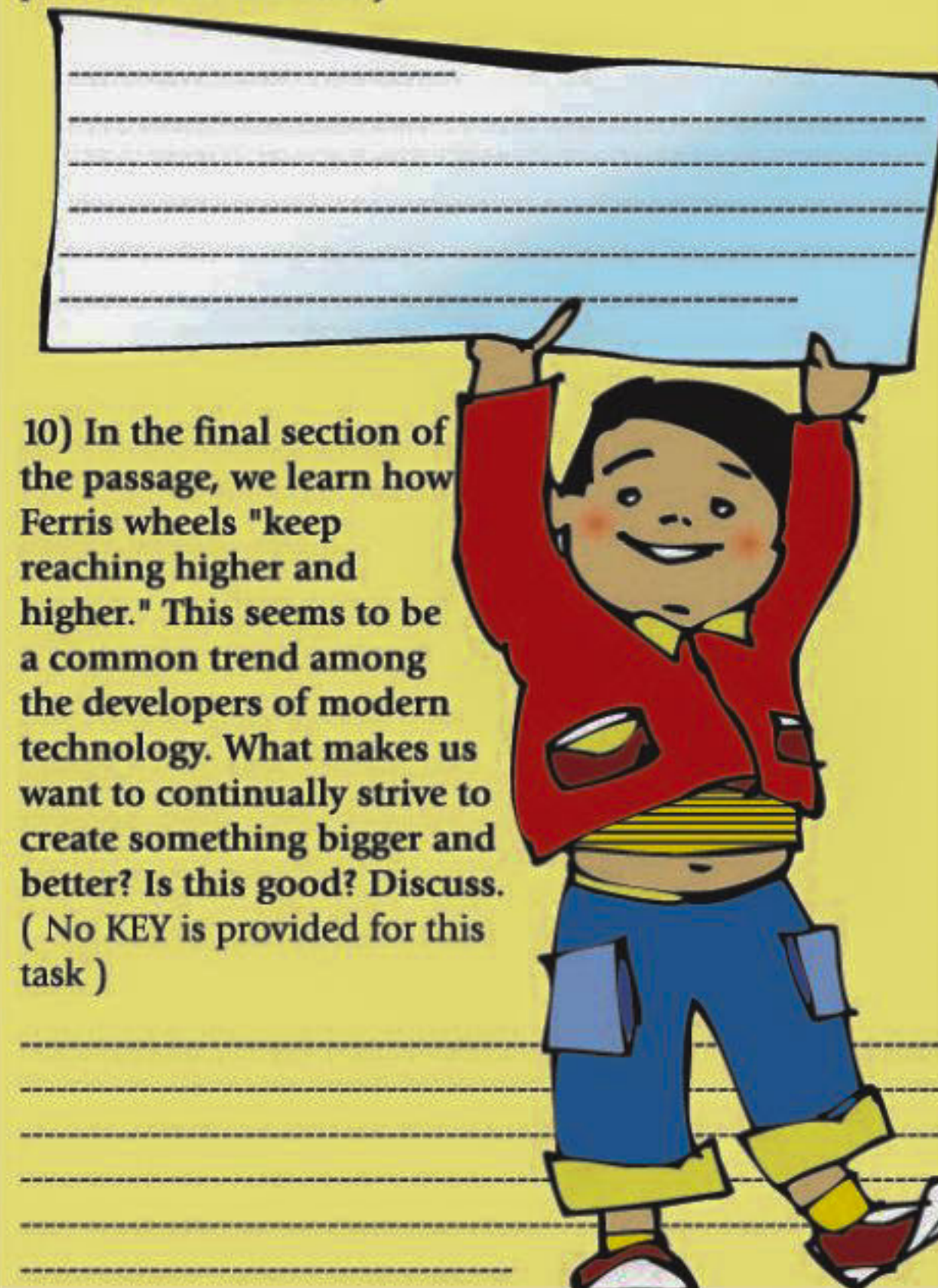
7) Using information in the passage, the reader can understand that the tallest Ferris wheel in the world is

- A. under 250 feet tall
- B. between 250 and 500 feet tall
- C. between 500 and 750 feet tall
- D. over 750 feet tall

8) In paragraph 2, the narrator says, "As simple as the ride seems, only advanced engineers can make safe and fun Ferris wheels." Can you think of any other machines that seem simple but actually are not? List at least two and explain why they are not actually simple. (No KEY is provided for this task)

9) In paragraph 3, the narrator says, "While the Ferris wheel is not as thrilling as a rollercoaster, it is still very exciting." Can you think of any other machines that are not "thrilling" but still "exciting"? (No KEY is provided for this task)

10) In the final section of the passage, we learn how Ferris wheels "keep reaching higher and higher." This seems to be a common trend among the developers of modern technology. What makes us want to continually strive to create something bigger and better? Is this good? Discuss. (No KEY is provided for this task)



correctly fast quietly

**Adverbs**

easily slowly quickly loudly

work sing draw

**Verbs**

green long beautiful laugh

clever

**Adjectives**

cat pen doll owl

ball shoe

**Nouns**

jam

### Adjectives Adverbs Exercises

Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Make any grammatical changes that may be necessary.

- Fewer people attended the committee meeting than the Chairman had expected. There weren't \_\_\_\_\_.
- Roy and Julee see less of their daughter than they would like to. They don't see \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jolly is better qualified than the other members of the department. The other members of the department \_\_\_\_\_.
- This is the nicest place I've ever been. Nowhere \_\_\_\_\_.
- Canada is a less densely populated country than Britain. Britain \_\_\_\_\_.
- This is the worst thing I've ever heard. Nothing \_\_\_\_\_.
- Tom's behavior was far worse than anyone else's. No one else \_\_\_\_\_.
- I don't care how much fuss you make, you're not making me change my mind. You can make \_\_\_\_\_.
- No one has come up with a better proposal so far. This is \_\_\_\_\_.
- It has been years since I saw a great game like this. I \_\_\_\_\_.
- No other climate is healthier than that of New York. New York's climate is \_\_\_\_\_.
- This is surely not the most ridiculous story I've heard before. I have heard \_\_\_\_\_.

Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Make any grammatical changes that may be necessary.

### ADJECTIVES ADVERBS QUIZ

- Your blue skirt is \_\_\_\_\_ the one you've got on, Mary; why don't you change?  
A) much worse than B) the best of C) much nicer than D) as better as E) more expensive than
- He's one of \_\_\_\_\_ people I've ever met. He never stops talking and never says anything \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) the least bored / interested  
B) the more boring / interesting  
C) the most boring / interesting  
D) the more bored / interested  
E) the least boring / interested
- He has got \_\_\_\_\_ big feet \_\_\_\_\_ he has difficulty finding shoes to fit him.  
A) as / as B) such / as C) so / that  
D) such / that E) more / than
- You looked \_\_\_\_\_ this morning but you look \_\_\_\_\_ now.  
A) depressing / a lot happier  
B) happier / a bit depressing  
C) depressed / much happy  
D) depressed / a bit happier  
E) a bit happier / more depressing
- \_\_\_\_\_ electricity you use, \_\_\_\_\_ your bill will be.  
A) The more / the lower  
B) The less / the higher  
C) The more / the higher  
D) The most / the lowest  
E) The least / the highest
- This bed is not \_\_\_\_\_ for two people to sleep in.  
A) as wider as B) wide enough C) wider than  
D) too wide E) the widest
- I wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ nervous before the interview \_\_\_\_\_ I usually am.  
A) such / as B) so / as C) too / than  
D) much / than E) such / that
- It's \_\_\_\_\_ to learn a foreign language in the country where it is spoken.  
A) a lot easier B) much easy C) easiest  
D) more easy E) the easier
- \_\_\_\_\_ hotels are usually \_\_\_\_\_ than cheaper ones.  
A) The most expensive / the most comfortable  
B) More expensive / more comfortable  
C) Cheaper / less expensive  
D) The biggest / comfortable  
E) The biggest / much good

10. The fault in the engine is \_\_\_\_\_ this time than it was the last time.  
A) much more serious B) as serious as  
C) so serious that D) a lot serious  
E) far more serious than



- I've never owned \_\_\_\_\_ independent cat before!  
a) a more than b) such an c) as much an d) as such e) as
- Brian has been working \_\_\_\_\_ since he was promoted.  
a) such a b) so c) more and more d) just as e) more than
- I've been feeling \_\_\_\_\_ tired lately, doctor.  
a) such a b) the most c) more and more  
d) just as e) such as
- People in this country live \_\_\_\_\_ anybody else in the world.  
a) longer than b) the longest c) long as  
d) just as long e) so longer
- There are about \_\_\_\_\_ retired people in Brazil as in the USA.  
a) much more b) as many c) half as much  
d) as little e) less than
- Her qualifications are \_\_\_\_\_ than those of any other candidate.  
a) better b) good enough c) the best d) the worst e) well
- The classes at my university are the same \_\_\_\_\_ those at State University.  
a) with b) from c) as d) at e) in
- Preparing frozen food is \_\_\_\_\_ anyone can do it.  
a) so easy that b) too easy that c) such easy that  
d) easier than e) the easiest
- Last year Americans spent six times \_\_\_\_\_ money for pet food as they did for baby food.  
a) so many b) such a c) as much  
d) as many e) much more



- "Mrs. Sheuly is always beautifully dressed."  
"Yes, she wears \_\_\_\_\_ nice clothes that everybody envies her."  
a) so b) too c) such a d) so much e) such
- "What do you think of Ahmed's new project?"  
"\_\_\_\_\_ we hear about, \_\_\_\_\_ enthusiastic we get."  
a) The more / the more b) The most / the least  
c) Less / the most d) The less / more e) More / less
- I could have found the place \_\_\_\_\_ if I had a map.  
a) more easier b) more easily c) as easily  
d) the easiest e) easy
- You could get the answer \_\_\_\_\_ with a calculator.  
a) far more easily b) much easy c) as easy as  
d) easier than e) the easiest
- Wednesday is \_\_\_\_\_ the doctor can see you, I'm afraid.  
a) earlier b) so earlier c) much more earlier  
d) the earliest e) earlier as
- She is \_\_\_\_\_ than Rose and has more to think about.  
a) more thoughtful b) so thoughtful  
c) the more thoughtful d) so much thoughtful
- The price by air from Rome to Paris is \_\_\_\_\_ than the price by train.  
a) a higher b) a lot higher c) the highest  
d) a more higher e) most highest
- The crisis we are facing now is \_\_\_\_\_ than any of the previous ones.  
a) the most serious b) seriously c) more serious d) as serious  
e) far more seriously