

Living Without E-mail



1. Read the story

Look at the pictures on these pages.
What is the story about? Now read it.

LANCASTER, PA., USA ¹They look like they have stepped out of a nineteenth-century picture. The men wear dark suits and wide hats. The women wear long dresses and never cut their hair. ²Who are these people? They are the Amish, a group that lives in the Pennsylvania **countryside** and 22 other **states**. ³Some Amish do not own automobiles, preferring instead to ride in **carriages**. ⁴They live without **electricity**, telephones, e-mail, watches, or even zippers*. In a high-tech** world where life is changing fast, the Amish live **simply**, trying to keep old **customs** and **avoid** modern life.

⁵Many Amish are farmers, but others are

furniture makers, flower sellers, or basket makers.

⁶Some Amish only go to school for eight years. After that, they work on **their family's** farm until they marry. ⁷In their **free time**, the Amish like to **sew**, **bake**, and play sports. They also like traveling by bus, but not by plane.

⁸Amish life is not **completely frozen** in time, but the Amish **consider** a **new idea** carefully before accepting it. "Will it **keep my family together**," they ask, "and my life **simple**?"

* zippers: long metal or plastic things that you pull to open or close things like clothes and bags

** high-tech: using modern electronic machines

NEW WORDS

countryside *n*
state *n*

carriage *n*
electricity *n*

simply *adv*
custom *n*

avoid *v*
basket *n*

sew *v*
bake *v*

frozen *adj*
consider *v*

simple *adj*

>> See Glossary on page 89. >>

2. Rate the story

How much did you like it? Mark an X.

Not at All

A Lot

1

2

3

4

5

3. Check your comprehension

Check (✓) the endings that are true. The first one is done for you.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. The Amish live | b. The Amish like to |
| ___ in two US states. | ___ avoid modern life. |
| ✓ ___ without electricity. | ___ travel by plane. |
| ___ simple lives. | ___ consider new ideas carefully. |
| ___ without customs. | ___ keep their families together. |

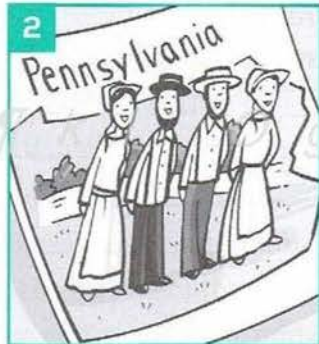
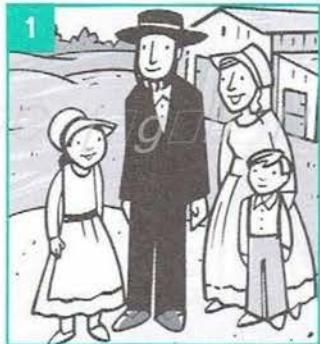
4. Check your vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the New Words.

- Many Amish ride in _____ iages instead of cars.
- They try hard to keep their old cus_____ and av_____ modern life.
- The Amish often ___k_ or s___ in their free time.
- Before accepting new ideas, the Amish con_____ them carefully.

5. Listen to the story track 6

Now listen to the story two or three times. Look at the pictures below as you listen.



6. Retell the story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Retell the story using the New Words.

7. Answer the questions

About the story...

- Where do the Amish live?
- What modern things don't the Amish use?
- What jobs do they have?
- Would you like to live as they do? Why or why not?

About you...

- What technology do you use every day?
- How long can you go without using a telephone?
- What are two ways to make your life simpler?
- What important customs are you attempting to keep?

8. Learn word partnerships

Study the partnerships below. Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

BAKE / SEW			
bake	bread	sew	a dress
	cookies		a seam
	a (chocolate/lemon) cake		a button on (a jacket, a shirt)
Amish women like to bake bread and sew dresses. <i>I often bake cookies, but I never sew buttons on my clothes.</i>			

- I'd like to try to bake _____.
- My _____ bakes (a) wonderful _____.
- I should _____ a button on my _____.

9. Learn word groups

Complete the sentences so they are true for you. Use words from the pictures.

CHORES



bake



take out the
garbage



do the
laundry



wash the
dishes



water the
plants



sweep

- At home I often _____.
- I don't like to _____.
- My parents usually _____.
- I should _____ more often.

10. Take a dictation track 7

Use your own paper to write the dictation. Check your answers on page 86.

11. Complete the story

Use the words from the box to complete the story.

bake customs simple carriage electricity avoid do the laundry

Traveling Back in Time

LONDON, ENGLAND How long could you go without hot water, toothpaste*, or an indoor toilet? Could you live without your telephone and computer? A British TV show called *1900 House* asked those questions.

The show found a family that agreed to live a (1) _____ life for three months. The Bowler family traveled back in time to the year 1900. In their “time machine,” they had to (2) _____ all modern conveniences**.



There was no hot water, (3) _____, washing machine, TV, phone, or car.

The show was interesting to watch. The Bowler family arrived at the house in a (4) _____. For three months they followed all the old (5) _____ of 1900—wearing the clothes, eating the food, and even playing the games that were popular 100 years ago.

They quickly learned that the “simple” life was not easy! It was hard to (6) _____ bread. It was difficult to take a bath and (7) _____.

They always felt dirty. They often got angry. “Living in 1900 is not romantic***,” Mrs. Bowler says. “It’s dirty, hard work.”

*toothpaste: what you put on your toothbrush to clean your teeth

** modern conveniences: machines that make life easier

*** romantic: about love



Talk about the stories

How are the lives of the Amish and the Bowler family similar? How are they different? Would you like to live a simpler life? Why or why not?