

Moving Day

Have you ever moved? Read this story to find out about a very unusual moving day.

¹ Betsy was excited one day when she came to school. "Tom, my family is moving next week! Maybe you could write a story about our moving day for the school paper," she said.

² Tom stared at Betsy and asked, "Where are you moving, and aren't you upset about leaving?"

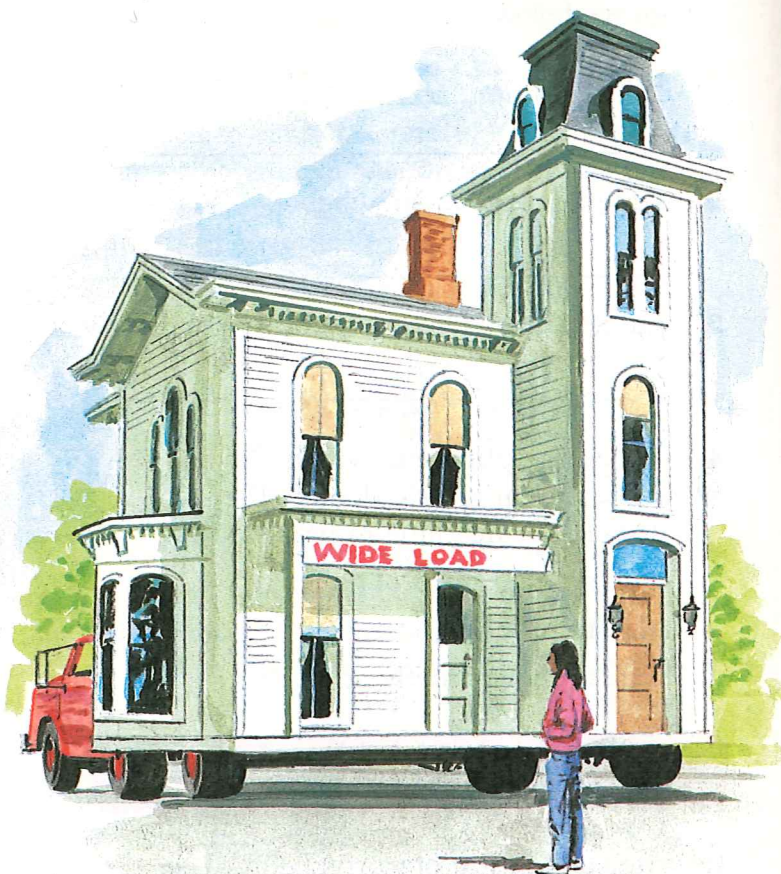
³ Betsy just smiled and said, "Oh, we're only moving about three blocks from where we live now. My family isn't moving to a different house. Our house is moving to a new location!"

⁴ "That is really different," Tom remarked. "But why are you going to move in the first place?"

⁵ "The new highway the state is building will cut right through our yard," Betsy explained. "Everyone in my family likes our house so much that we didn't want to find another one. We decided to have the house moved. Our new lot is on the corner of Fifth and Broad Streets."

⁶ Tom learned that Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Betsy's parents, had to obtain a permit for the house to be transported on city streets. At the new site, a basement had been dug for the Davis house. It was ready for the house to be placed above it. Before the move, the utility companies came. They disconnected the water, gas, and electricity. Then, the family had to pack and take out of the house anything that was fragile.

⁷ At last, all these jobs were done. On Friday morning, the house-moving firm came with all its tools. Betsy snapped pictures of the whole process. First, the six-person crew jacked up the house almost the same way a car is jacked up to change a tire. They placed cylinder-shaped beams under the house. Then they rolled the house very



slowly onto a flatbed truck. When the house was on the truck, a police escort arrived.

⁸ The police rode on motorcycles in front of the truck. Betsy and her family followed in their car. The house was almost the same width as the street on which it traveled! The truck went very slowly as the people on Fifth Street stared in wonder. They couldn't believe that a house was moving down their street.

⁹ When the truck arrived at the new site, the crew slowly moved the house back onto the cylinder-shaped beams and rolled it off the truck. They then placed the house over the new basement.

¹⁰ The entire house-moving process took about twelve days to complete. Betsy came into class the Monday after the move. "At last we have all our furniture and dishes back in their right places. It seems the only thing that has changed is our address," she laughed.

Knowing the Words

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. gas, water, or electric service

(Par. 6)

2. roller-shaped

(Par. 7)

3. thick pieces of wood

(Par. 7)

4. **Abbreviations** are shortened forms of words. Write this address without abbreviations.

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Learning to Study

Complete this outline.

- I. Things that were done before moving day

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

- II. Things that were done on moving day

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

Reading and Thinking

1. Number of events to show the order in which they happened.

_____ A basement was dug for the house.

_____ The crew rolled the house to a flatbed truck using cylinders.

_____ The crew began to raise up the house using jacks.

_____ Mr. and Mrs. Davis obtained a permit.

_____ Betsy returned to class on Monday.

2. Why did Mr. and Mrs. Davis have to get a permit? _____

3. Why did the family have to remove from the house anything that was fragile?

4. Why was the house moved onto cylinder-shaped beams? _____

5. The main idea of paragraph 8 is

Working with Words

Sometimes suffixes are added to verbs to form nouns. Write the noun that is formed from each verb and suffix.

Verb

Suffix

Noun

1. depend ence _____

2. correct ion _____

3. forgive ness _____