

## The Grand Canyon Railway (Reading)

- Description:** A text about Arizona in which ten words have been left out.
- Use with or after:** *English Network Plus (New Edition)*, Unit 4.
- Skill:** Reading
- Focus:** Students in groups A and B fill in the missing words, then compare with someone from the other group to check their answers.
- Time:** 10 minutes
- Preparation:**
- Print out the second and third pages of this file.
  - Make enough copies so that each student can have one of the two worksheets, but not both.
- Procedure:**
- Divide the class into two groups, A and B, on opposite sides of the room.
  - Give each member of group A a copy of worksheet A, and the same for B.
  - Explain that both groups have the same text, but that different words are missing from each version. The text is about a part of the state of Arizona which is over a hundred miles (160 kilometres) north of Sun City.
  - Students should work together with someone from their own group to fill in the missing words in their version of the text.
  - When they have filled in all the words (or when you feel that more time will not produce more answers) ask each person to find a new partner from the other group. They should put their texts side by side and compare them, since each has the other's answers.
  - If anyone has been to the Grand Canyon (or perhaps even ridden on the Grand Canyon Railway!), encourage them to tell the whole class about it. You can find more information at [http://www.kaibab.org/gcrw/gc\\_gcrr.htm](http://www.kaibab.org/gcrw/gc_gcrr.htm).



## Group A

*In this text, ten words have been left out. Write in the missing words.*

The Grand Canyon Railway – that’s its official name, even though the Americans \_\_\_\_\_ say “railroad” – is sixty-five miles long and first went into operation in 1901. It starts at the town of Williams, Arizona, and goes north to the Grand Canyon \_\_\_\_\_ deserts, prairies and pine forests.

For a quarter century the Grand Canyon Railway was the primary method for getting to the Canyon. This started to \_\_\_\_\_ in the mid 1920s when the first automobiles, the Model Ts, began arriving. As the number of automobiles continued to increase, the \_\_\_\_\_ leading to the Canyon were improved, which attracted more and more visitors. The Railway kept running, though, until in 1968 when it could no longer survive, and went \_\_\_\_\_ of business. In 1989, new owners began restoring the Grand Canyon Railway. The decaying tracks were rebuilt, the historic stations at both ends of the line were restored, and after 21 years passenger service once again returned to Grand Canyon National Park. The Railway \_\_\_\_\_ has three vintage steam engines and several diesels.

As environmental movements began to make people think more and more about not using their \_\_\_\_\_ when alternative forms of transportation were \_\_\_\_\_, the National Park Service announced that the Canyon was becoming too congested as a result of too many people bringing \_\_\_\_\_ many automobiles to the Canyon during the main tourist season.

The Grand Canyon Railway is now doing very well again. In the summer months, and many times on the weekends in the spring and fall, you can see a \_\_\_\_\_ of 10–15 coaches pull into Grand Canyon Station carrying hundreds of visitors.

*Now find a new partner from the other group. Put your texts side by side and compare them.*

*Discuss: Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon? What do you know about it?*



## Group B

*In this text, ten words have been left out. Write in the missing words.*

The Grand Canyon Railway – that’s its official name, even though the Americans usually say “railroad” – is sixty-five miles \_\_\_\_\_ and first went into operation in 1901. It starts at the town of Williams, Arizona, and goes north to the Grand Canyon through deserts, prairies and pine forests.

For a quarter \_\_\_\_\_ the Grand Canyon Railway was the primary method for getting to the Canyon. This started to change in the mid 1920s when the first automobiles, the Model Ts, began arriving. As the number of \_\_\_\_\_ continued to increase, the roads leading to the Canyon were improved, which attracted more and more visitors. The Railway kept running, though, until in 1968 when it could no \_\_\_\_\_ survive, and went out of business.

In 1989, new owners began restoring the Grand Canyon Railway. The decaying tracks were rebuilt, the historic stations at both \_\_\_\_\_ of the line were restored, and after 21 years passenger service once again returned to Grand Canyon National Park. The Railway now has three vintage steam engines and several diesels. As environmental movements began to make people think more and \_\_\_\_\_ about not using their automobiles when alternative forms of \_\_\_\_\_ were available, the National Park Service announced that the Canyon was becoming too congested as a result of \_\_\_\_\_ many people bringing too many automobiles to the Canyon during the main tourist season.

The Grand Canyon Railway is now doing very well again. In the summer months, and many times on the weekends in the \_\_\_\_\_ and fall, you can see a train of 10–15 coaches pull into Grand Canyon Station carrying hundreds \_\_\_\_\_ visitors.

*Now find a new partner from the other group. Put your texts side by side and compare them.*

*Discuss: Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon? What do you know about it?*