



Mail Past and Present

Part 1

Teacher Reads People have always needed ways to get messages to one another. Sending messages through the mail is one way to do that. But mail delivery in the past was very different from today.

How did people get mail in the past? They did not
11 have a **post office** to go to. Mail was not put in boxes
24 and slots for people as it is today. People had to go get
37 mail. They went to spots where people met up, such
47 as inns and shops. They left mail there and picked up
58 mail at such spots. People had to wait days and days
69 for mail.

Part 2

Teacher Reads Over time, new inventions made mail delivery better and faster.

71 People began to set up post offices. People had
80 jobs to pick up and drop off mail. Back then, mail was
92 sent with people on **horses**, on mail wagons, and on
102 ships. Then mail began to be sent on trains and then
113 on **planes**. Today mail is sent on planes, trains, and
123 trucks. The wait for mail is less today than in the past.



Part 3

Teacher Reads People can still use the mail to send messages. But now they also use email, electronic mail sent over a computer network.

135 Today you can put mail in a mailbox. The mail will
146 be sent where you wish it to go. Is it fast? It is not as
161 fast as **email**. Email is sent as fast as you can tap a **key**.

175 Some people say the mail is “snail mail.” They say
185 that because the mail travels the way a snail travels:
195 NOT fast. “Snail mail” is not as fast as email.

205 “Snail mail” and email are ways to send mail today.
215 Maybe someday people will think of the best way to
225 send mail yet. [Learn More](#)

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