

STARTER

a _____



b _____



d.



e



- 1 Match the different types of freight traffic (1–6) with the definitions (a–f).**

- | |
|--|
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |

- a The driver does not stay with his road vehicle during transport by rail or ferry.
- b Goods are transported in the same loading unit or vehicle using different modes of transport. The handling of the freight itself is not necessary when changing modes.
- c A single shipper uses a whole train which is run directly from the loading point to the destination. No assembling and disassembling is required.
- d Carriage of goods by at least two different modes of transport, e.g. shipping by motor lorry and aircraft.
- e Train is formed out of individual wagons or sets of wagons which have different origins and different destinations.
- f Combines road and rail transport: whole motor lorries, trailers or swap-bodies are carried by rail.



2 Two employees of a forwarding company are comparing transport modes for a shipment from western China to Shanghai. Listen and correct the information in the table.

	inland waterways	road	rail (express service)
speed in days	7	4	2
cost	low	compared with barge: 60% higher	compared with road: 40% higher
flexibility	high	very high	low



3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets. Then listen again to check.

- 1 How long would it take by barge? – Normally about six days, but it often takes _____ (long) if the weather's bad.
- 2 It's cheap – it's actually _____ (cheap) of all the transport options.
- 3 It would only take four days to ship by truck, but the cost would be about 50% _____ (high) than by barge.

- 4 Rail would definitely be _____ (fast) than the truck option if we use the express service that takes three days.
- 5 But it would also be _____ (expensive) than shipping by road – transport costs are about 40% higher.
- 6 And then perhaps we'd have to use the standard train, which is much _____ (slow).

Answer these questions.

- 1 Why is the barge option not very flexible?
- 2 What do they decide to do at the end of their discussion?

MAKING COMPARISONS

When comparing two or more things we use comparative adjectives. The comparative form is **-er** for short adjectives with one syllable, and two-syllable adjectives ending in **-y**.

*Transport by sea is **cheaper** than transport by air.*

*Steel is **heavier** than paper.*

We use **more** + adjective with longer words.

*Shipping goods by road is **more expensive** than shipping them by rail.*

*Some transport modes are **more reliable** than others.*

Some adjectives have irregular forms.

good / well – better

*Our rates are **better** than theirs.*

bad / badly – worse

*Their service is **worse** than ours.*

far / further – furthest

*This shipment will travel **further** than the last one.*

4 Work in pairs. Compare different transport modes using some of the adjectives in the box.

Example: I think shipping goods by rail is faster than sea transport.

adjectives	transport modes
slow / fast	rail
expensive / cheap	air
safe	road
suitable	sea
reliable	river
environmentally friendly	pipeline

5 Match the pictures (a-d) with the names (1-4).



a _____



b _____



c _____



d _____

- 1 gantry crane
- 2 ISO container
- 3 reach stacker
- 4 transtainer

6 Now complete the descriptions of intermodal transport and handling equipment with the verbs from the box.

fitted • straddle • mounted • loading • attached • reach • handle • piling • made • move

1

A piece of machinery used for _____ and unloading containers from ships onto trucks or rail wagons and vice versa. It is rail-mounted and can _____ at least four railway tracks. It is motorized and can _____ parallel to the ship's side.

2

A special type of device which is able to _____ ⁴ very heavy loads. It is used for transferring swap-bodies and containers from rail wagons to trucks and vice versa. It has four legs _____ ⁵ with wheels and a spreader beam which can span a wide area. It can be _____ ⁶ on rails or rubber tyres and is able to straddle several rows of containers.

3

A kind of fork lift truck used in container handling. It is equipped with a spreader beam and a lifting arm and can be used for lifting containers and _____ ⁷ them on top of each other. It is very flexible and has a high stacking and storage capacity as it is able to _____ ⁸ beyond the first row of containers to lift a container.

4

A rigid box _____ ⁹ of steel which is very common in intermodal freight transport. It can be used for transport by sea, rail, air, and road. It is available in many different versions and sizes. For example, there are open-top and flat-rack versions. Some of them have wheels or a bogie _____ ¹⁰ to them. The most common lengths are 20, 40, and 45 feet. It is made to the specifications of the International Standards Organization.

7

Replace the underlined words with verbs from the box that have the same meaning. Use the correct verb forms.

stack • come • run • fix • attach • lift • fit

- 1 This type of crane is used for raising containers.

- 2 Containers are available in a variety of versions and sizes.

- 3 It's a heavy-duty fork lift truck equipped with a spreader beam.

- 4 With this device you can pile containers on top of each other.

- 5 Some containers have a bogie fixed to them.

- 6 This device is mounted on rails.

- 7 The crane is motorized and able to move alongside the quay.



8 An employee of a transport company presents some container options to a potential customer. Listen and complete the table with the missing information.

Type of container	suitable for transport of
1	
2	
3 tanktainer	
4	
5 flat-rack	

9 Listen again and complete the sentences.

level • tarpaulin • frame • machinery • lashing • removed • controlled • plugs

- 1 It comes with a timber floor and has various _____ devices to secure the load.
- 2 These lashing points are located horizontally at floor _____.
- 3 It is temperature-_____ and is particularly suitable for cargo that needs regulated or cool temperatures.
- 4 This is a standard container _____ with a tank fitted inside.
- 5 As an extra, we also offer tank containers with electric _____ in case the cargo needs cooling or heating during transport.
- 6 It comes with a PVC _____ cover instead of a roof panel to allow loading from the top.
- 7 The doors can be _____ to make loading easier.
- 8 We recommend this special type of container for the transportation of heavy _____ and pipes.

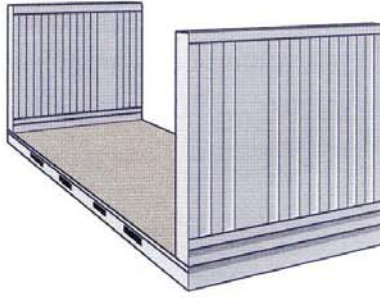
Now label the different types of containers 1–5.



1 _____

2 _____

3 _____



4 _____

5 _____

CONTAINER FEATURES

We recommend this type of container for ...
 It is particularly suitable for ...
 It comes with ...
 As an extra, we also offer ...
 It has ... for loading

10 Describe the container features to a partner using words from this unit.**PARTNER FILES**

Partner A File 04, p.71
 Partner B File 12, p.72

11 Sort the goods under the correct heading.

perishable cargo	non-perishable cargo	heavyweight and overwidth cargo

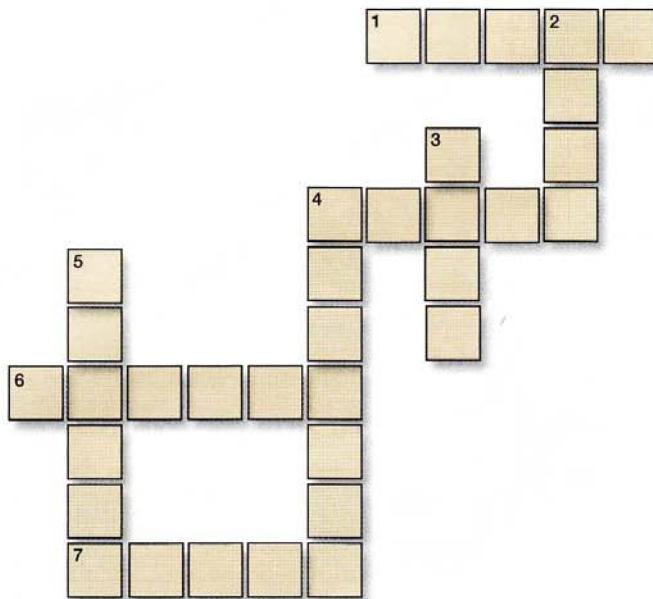
meat • steel pipes • crude oil • fresh produce • industrial boilers • seafood • alcohol
 • dairy products • tractors • chilled or frozen foodstuffs • harmful chemicals

Can you think of other types of goods? Discuss in a small group.

12 Now say which of the following containers you would recommend for the different types of cargo from exercise 11.

- a reefer
- b flat-rack container
- c tank container

13 Complete this crossword puzzle on transport modes with words from the unit.



Across

- 1 Another word for *rubbish*.
- 4 A device for lifting heavy loads.
- 6 Another word for *ship*.
- 7 The opposite of *soft* or *flexible*.

Down

- 2 Another word for *pipe*.
- 3 A container for liquids is a ... *container*.
- 4 Kept cool, but not frozen.
- 5 A container fitted with a cooling system.

OUTPUT

Freight Transport Logistics in Europe – the key to sustainable mobility

Europe's transport policy has been characterized by liberalisation and harmonization over the years. This has slowly shaped the transport system into what it is today. Globalization and the concept of wider Europe create further challenges. The fast growth of freight transport – driven to a large extent by economic decisions – contributes to growth and employment but also causes congestion, accidents, noise, pollution, increased reliance on imported fossil fuels, and energy loss. Infrastructure resources are limited and any disruption in the supply chain (i.e. energy) has necessarily a negative impact on the EU economy. Without adequate measures, the situation will continue worsening and increasingly undermine Europe's competitiveness and the environment that we all live in.

To overcome such problems, Europe's transport system needs to be optimized by means of advanced logistics solutions. Logistics can increase the efficiency of individual modes of transport and their combinations. As a result, fewer units of transport, such as vehicles, wagons, and vessels should carry more freight. Impact on the environment will decrease accordingly.



Rail and inland waterways need to be modernized. Air freight should be more closely integrated in the system. The positive development of short sea shipping should be accelerated. Deep-sea shipping and its hinterland connections need to be enhanced. Shifts to more environmentally friendly modes must be achieved where appropriate, especially on long distance, in urban areas, and on congested corridors.

At the same time each transport mode must be optimized. All modes must become more environmentally friendly, safer, and more energy efficient. Finally, co-modality, i.e. the efficient use of different modes on their own and in combinations, will result in an optimal and sustainable utilization of resources.

OVER TO YOU

- 1 Do you also have to deal with growing freight traffic in your country?
- 2 How do you think transport systems could be improved?
- 3 How do you think intermodal transport systems can make freight transport more efficient?