

Summaries

After each passage, there is a partly-completed summary outline with blank spaces. Fill in the blanks to finish each summary.

1) A long time ago there were no big publishing companies. There were printing presses and printed books, but book publishing was mainly a local business. Book stores not only sold books; they also printed them. Booksellers were publishers, too. Those people often wrote books themselves or else they worked with writers they admired. And they printed whatever they wanted. Probably they published quite a few inferior books just because they liked them. But also they likely printed many very good books that no big company would have published. Now computer technology is making it possible again to print books on a smaller scale. Desktop publishing is ideal for companies that do not want to produce thousands of copies. Moreover, print and pictures can now be published on the Worldwide Web. These new publishing options will probably have the same advantages and disadvantages as small-scale publishing out of book stores many years ago.

The early days of book publishing:

- no big publishers
- mainly local

Early publishers:

- _____
- _____

Books that were chosen for publishing:

- whatever the publisher liked
- _____
- _____

Modern publishing:

- _____
- good for companies wanting to print smaller numbers of copies
- _____

Results:

- _____

2) Modern bicycles are very unlike their old-fashioned ancestors from a couple of centuries ago. The first bicycles did not have pedals. In fact, they did not even have a moveable steering wheel! And after pedals were invented, it was a long time before anyone thought of using a chain or gears. These facts are somewhat surprising. Compared to cars, bicycles look very simple. Nevertheless, bicycles took a long time to develop. For many centuries, human beings had the wheel. People knew that the wheel was the key to effective transportation: they invented all sorts of carts, waggons and chariots. But they did not know how to make bicycles. The probable reason for this delay is very simple. A good bicycle is quite small and light. Making one demands exact engineering and strong, thin materials. By contrast, those difficult requirements are not necessary for a cart, a waggon or a chariot. Most likely, bicycles could not be perfected until people had developed ways to manufacture complicated mechanisms. Before then, inventors might have had the idea for a bicycle, but they would not have had the technical ability to build one.

Ways in which old-fashioned bicycles differed from modern ones:

- no pedals
- _____
- _____
- _____

Why it is surprising that bicycles developed so late:

- compared to cars, they seem quite simple
- _____

Factors probably explaining the slow development of bicycles:

- _____
- _____