

For Advanced Kids Learners

Book 2

# Time to Talk

Lesson 26 The Power of Steam



- Warm-up questions



**What is the white gas?**

- Read and learn

## The Power of Steam

The invention of the wheel made people travel faster. However, travelling was still difficult. It was the **steam engine** that really made travelling much easier and faster.

The steam engine used hot steam from **boiling** water to move a machine. Steam is water in the form of a gas. To make the steam, most steam engines boil water by **burning** coal.

### **steam engine**

*an engine which uses steam to supply energy to its parts.*



### **boil**

*to change liquid to gas by heating*



### **burn**

*to produce flames or heat*



- **Read and learn**

The earliest steam engines were not very useful. In 1778, James Watt made steam engines smaller and **much better**. By the early 1800s, Watt steam engines were used in **factories** across England. Later, steam engines were used in trains.

**factories**

*set of buildings where products  
are made by machines*

- **Read and learn**

Before steam power, most factories were **powered** by water, and they had to be near a river. Steam power created large factories in the **riverbanks** and soon moved to towns and cities.

Burning coal gives off dirty air so we don't use steam engines very much anymore.

**powered**

*used with energy to  
work*



**riverbank**

*the land at either side  
of a river*

- Read the meanings and choose the words.

steam engine   boil   burn   factories   powered   riverbank

1. used with energy or force to work.

2. the land at either side of a river

3. buildings where products are made by machines

4. to produce flames or heat

5. change liquid to gas by heating.

6. an engine that uses steam to supply energy to its parts

- Grammar



## **much + comparative adjective**

*to a great degree*

### Examples

- James Watt made steam engines **much better** (than the old one).
- I have been feeling **much worse**.

Original form	Comparative form
very good	much better
very bad	much worse
many	much more

**+ Change the original form into comparative form with “much”.**

- This teacher is very popular among students.
- There are many chairs and tables in this classroom.



- **Answer the questions.**

1. What does a steam engine use to move a machine?
2. Who created the smaller and much better steam engines?
3. How were steam engines used long ago and in the recent past?
4. In the present, why don't people use steam engines very much?

