

# wheels

By Dexter H. Faulkner

**D**id you ever stop to think what it would be like if no one had invented the wheel? How different our life would be!

Modern civilization depends upon the wheel. Imagine what would happen if all wheels suddenly disappeared.

Skateboards would come to a screeching halt. So would roller skates. And bikes, automobiles, trucks and trains. Motors could not function, and so planes would cease to fly and most ships would go nowhere.

Many things we use every day besides transportation vehicles would have to be abandoned if there were no wheels.

Hair dryers and electric shavers wouldn't work. Nor would drills, vacuum cleaners, blenders — in fact, nothing electric would work because there would be no electricity.

Electrical power, you see, is produced by turbines and generators that depend on the principle of the wheel. So out go the lights, televisions, video games, computers, refrigerators — everything using electricity.

Of course almost all industry would stop, since machinery wouldn't work. And present-day farming and food distribution methods depend so heavily on the wheel that without it you would soon find yourself with very little to eat.

Yes, the wheel is vital to the modern world. It makes things go easily and smoothly.



Sometimes people are referred to as "wheels." "So-and-so is a big wheel," you've probably heard someone say. That means that the one in question makes things happen — sometimes for good, sometimes for bad, but there is nevertheless action, movement.

How about you? Are you a "wheel" in the right sense? Do you make good things happen more easily? Do you cooperate with others in achieving worthwhile goals? Are you easy for others to turn — to cause to function? Or are you an obstacle like a flat wheel or a sticky wheel or a wheel that is missing?

Wheels make it possible to lift and carry heavy weights and burdens. They cause things to move smoothly and quickly. They make life easier for people. Do you?

The saying is true that the "squeaky wheel gets the grease". Are you always squeaking, demanding attention for yourself? Or can you turn

quietly most of the time, doing your part to facilitate things, to move them along in the right direction?

Next time you use something on wheels or with wheels, notice how the wheels busily spin away, doing their part to make the whole mechanism work.

Ask yourself if you function like that at home, at work, in school, in group activities or wherever your cooperation is needed. If not, isn't it time to become cooperative and helpful like a well-oiled, smoothly running wheel?

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