JOE WHEELER FINDS A JOB and learns about SOCIAL SECURITY
This booklet is designed for use in adult basic reading courses. Its purpose is to give students enrolled in these courses a general explanation of the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance provisions of the social security law.
Joe Wheeler Goes To The Big City

Joe Wheeler lived on a small farm for many years.
In 1956 Joe Wheeler moved to a big city.
Why did Joe move to the city?
To get a job and make more money.
Joe rode to the big city on a bus.
He was on the bus for 300 miles.
Joe Gets A Job

In the city, Joe looked for a job.
He went to many places.
Joe asked for a job at the car factory, and at the airplane factory, and at the shoe factory.
He got a job at the shoe factory.
The boss at the shoe factory asked to see Joe's social security card.
Joe said, "I do not have a social security card."
"You can get a card at the social security office, Joe," said the boss.
Joe Gets A Social Security Card

Joe went to the social security office and asked for a social security card.

The man gave Joe a form and told him to fill it out.

"I cannot read the form," said Joe.

So the man helped Joe fill it out.

Then he gave Joe a social security card.

The card had Joe's name and social security number on it.

Then the man told Joe about social security.
Joe Learns About Social Security

The man said, "Show the social security card to your employer, Mr. Wheeler.

"Your employer will write your name and social security number in his record book.

"Your employer will take out a few pennies from every dollar you earn.

"Then, from his own pocket, he will take out the same amount of money.

"This money is called the social security tax.

"Four times each year, your employer must pay the social security tax and tell the social security people how much money he has paid you.

"The social security people will keep a record of all the money you are paid."

The man told Joe that the social security taxes are used to help people.
“This is how social security may help you, Joe,” the man said.

“If you get hurt or very sick and cannot work any more, you can get a social security check each month.

“When you get old and stop work, you can get a check each month.

“And if you die, your family can get a social security check each month.”

When Joe’s wife and children came to the city to join him, Joe told his wife about his social security protection.

Joe knows his social security card is important and he will take good care of it.

But if he loses it, he knows he can get a new card with the same number on it from the social security office.
Work Page 1

WORD STUDY

Study these words. Be sure you know how to spell them right.
1. record 3. family 5. airplane 7. important 9. Joe Wheeler
2. check 4. factory 6. employer 8. protection 10. social security

VERB STUDY

Some verbs tell what happens now or today. These verbs are called present tense verbs.

Some verbs tell what happened in the past or yesterday. These verbs are called past tense verbs.

Example: Present Tense: work
Past Tense: worked

A. Write the past tense of these verbs.

Present (today) Past (yesterday)
1. learn
2. go
3. ride
4. live
5. get

B. Write the present tense of these verbs.

Past (yesterday) Present (today)
1. gave
2. asked
3. helped
4. called
5. looked

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why did Joe move to the city?
2. Where did Joe look for a job?
3. Tell two things Joe learned about social security.
Joe's Job At The Shoe Factory

Joe liked his new job.

He worked 8 hours each day—he worked 5 days each week.

In his job, Joe ran a machine that stitched shoes.

On his shoe-stitching machine, he sewed the sole of the shoe to the top part of the shoe.

Each hour Joe sewed the soles on 50 pairs of shoes.

Each day he sewed the soles on 400 pairs of shoes.

At the end of each week he had sewed the soles on 2000 pairs of shoes.
Payday At The Shoe Factory

At the shoe factory, every Friday was payday.
Payday was a good day for Joe and the other workers.
Joe used his pay to buy food and to pay the rent and to pay for his car.
Every payday Joe got a pay slip with his money.
It showed how much he earned and how much the employer held back from Joe’s pay for the social security tax.
Joe saved each pay slip so he would have a record of all the money he earned.
Joe Loses His Job At The Shoe Factory

One payday brought bad news for Joe.

That day his foreman said, "Joe, I am sorry but we do not have a job for you any more.

"We have a new machine to put the soles and heels on shoes.

"So the factory will not be using the stitching machine to sew the soles on shoes any more."

Joe walked over to the new machine to see how it worked.

Each hour the machine could put the sole and heel on 100 pairs of shoes.
Each day the machine could put the sole and heel on 800 pairs of shoes.
Each week the machine could put the sole and heel on 4000 pairs of shoes.

The new machine could do Joe's work much faster.

So Joe did not have a job.
Joe Looks For A New Job

The next day Joe looked for a new job.
He went to the employment office at the car factory.
The man at the car factory asked Joe how long he went to school.
Joe said, "I went to school 4 years."
The man asked Joe to take a test.
Joe said, "I cannot read the test."
"I am sorry," the man said, "but we do not have a job for you.
"We need men who can read and write and pass the test."
When Joe went to the airplane factory, the same thing happened.
The next week Joe looked for a job at many stores and factories.
But all the employment men told Joe they had no job for him.
Joe looked for a job for 1 month.
But no employer would give Joe a job.
Work Page 2

WORD STUDY

Study these words. Be sure you know how to spell them right.

1. pairs  3. sorry  5. faster  7. pay slip  9. stitched
2. test   4. school  6. payday  8. foreman  10. employment

VERB STUDY

A. Write the past tense of these verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present (today)</th>
<th>Past (yesterday)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. sew</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. run</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. write</td>
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<td>4. stitch</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. earn</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

B. Write the present tense of these verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past (yesterday)</th>
<th>Present (today)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. showed</td>
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<td>3. held</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. saved</td>
<td></td>
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<td>5. was</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What was Joe’s job at the shoe factory?
2. What did Joe do with his pay slips?
3. Why did Joe lose his job?
4. Why was it that Joe could not get another job?
Joe Goes To School

One day Joe went to the State employment office to look for work and apply for his unemployment check.

The man at the employment office said, "Joe, you might be able to learn a new trade and get a good job. But first you must learn to read and write better."

He told Joe about a school where men and women could learn to read and write better.

So Joe went to school on the next Monday.

Joe met the other men and women in the reading and writing class. There were 15 men and 5 women in the reading and writing class.
Joe Studies

The teacher gave Joe first one book and then more books to read.
Joe studied hard and learned to read many words.
He read at home and he studied at school.
Joe learned to read many new words each day.
Joe studied by reading the stories in the books the teacher gave him.
And he studied by reading the newspaper every day.
Joe also learned to write many words.
Joe learned to read and write better each day.
And he learned some arithmetic too.
Joe went to the reading and writing class for several weeks.
Then Joe went back to the employment office.
Joe Goes To A Job-Training School

The man at the employment office told Joe about a job-training school. At the school, men and women learned a new trade.

Joe told the man, “I want to be a mechanic.”

The man said, “That is fine, Joe, but you will have to take a written test first. The test will tell me whether you are ready to learn to be a mechanic.”

Joe passed the test.

The man said, “Joe, you can go to the job-training school.”

Joe went to the job-training school for 36 weeks and learned how to fix machinery.
Joe Looks For Work Again

Joe Wheeler, the mechanic, went back to the car factory, and the airplane factory, and the shoe factory.

He told the employment men that he wanted a job as a mechanic.

He told them about the school where he learned to read and write better.

And he told them about the job-training school where he learned to fix machinery.

The employment men at the car factory and the airplane factory and the shoe factory asked Joe to take a test.

Joe passed the test at all 3 factories.
Work Page 3

WORD STUDY

Study these words. Be sure you know how to spell them right.
1. trade 3. better 5. arithmetic 7. job-training
2. class 4. mechanic 6. newspaper

VERB STUDY

A. Write the past tense of these verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present (today)</th>
<th>Past (yesterday)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. study</td>
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<td>2. fix</td>
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<td>3. pass</td>
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<td>4. is</td>
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<td>5. are</td>
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</table>

B. Write the present tense of these verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past (yesterday)</th>
<th>Present (today)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. wanted</td>
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<td>2. said</td>
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<td>3. could</td>
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<td>4. told</td>
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<td>5. met</td>
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</table>

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What did the man at the State employment office tell Joe?
2. How did Joe study at home?
3. What did Joe study at the job-training school?
Joe Gets A New Job

The employment man at the car factory said, "Joe, I have a job for you."

And the man at the shoe factory offered Joe a job, too.

Joe said he would take the job at the shoe factory.

In his new job at the shoe factory, Joe is a machine maintenance man.

In this job, Joe fixes the machines that took over his old job—the machines that put the soles and heels on shoes.

Joe likes his new job.

It is a good job and he makes more money.
Joe's Social Security Protection

Joe's employer still sends in the social security tax four times each year and tells the social security people how much he pays Joe.

Joe pays more social security tax now because he makes more money.

Since Joe makes more money in his new job, his social security protection is better.

The amount of social security benefits a family gets depends on how much the worker earns.

Workers who earn more can get bigger social security benefits.
If Joe gets hurt or very sick and cannot work anymore, the social security people will send him a check each month.

These checks are called disability insurance benefits.
If Joe gets disability benefits, his family may get checks too.

When Joe gets old and stops work, the social security people will send him a check each month.

These checks are called old-age insurance benefits.
When Joe gets old-age benefits, his wife may get checks too.

If Joe dies, his wife and children can get social security checks each month.

These checks are called survivors insurance benefits.
The City Taught Joe Many Things

Joe likes the city now because he has a good job as a machine maintenance man.

But he found that he had to study hard and work hard to get his good job.

He knows now that workers with good training can get good jobs.

And he learned that even the most modern machine needs a man to keep it running.

Joe also likes the city because he learned many things.
He is able to read more books now and he can read all of the news each day in the newspaper.

And Joe knows about his social security protection.
WORD STUDY

Study these words. Be sure you know how to spell them right.
1. things  3. modern  5. running  7. disability  9. retirement
2. taught  4. benefit  6. insurance  8. survivors  10. maintenance

VERB STUDY

A. Write the *past* tense of these verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present (today)</th>
<th>Past (yesterday)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. likes</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. has</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. read</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. keep</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. know</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

B. Write the *present* tense of these verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past (yesterday)</th>
<th>Present (today)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. took</td>
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<td>2. offered</td>
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<td>3. made</td>
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<td>4. found</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. taught</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What did Joe do in his new job?
2. What social security protection does Joe have?
3. What did Joe learn in the city?