Name: _____ Group №: _____

Date: _____/ _____ / _____ Course: _____

Railway cars:

FIRST IMPROVEMENT IN PASSENGER CARS

1 **Read the text and translate it :**

During the greater part of the 19th century all passenger cars had three serious disadvantages. First of all, they were not very strong since they were built of wood and their trucks had many wooden parts. When there was a train wreck the cars often broke apart and most of the passengers riding in them were crushed to death. Besides that, these early cars were all heated by wood or coal-burning stoves. If a train wreck took place in winter when the stoves were lighted, the latter usually set fire to the wooden cars. But worst of all, these cars had open platforms at each end. It is the combination of open platforms, wooden bodies and stoves plus the absence of modem signalling that made the cars dangerous for travelling. And it was the elimination of the open platform that was the first great improvement in railroad car design in 1880s. Since that time all passenger cars have the enclosed vestibule and the steel and canvas diaphragm connecting the ends of adjacent coaches. Both the diaphragm and the enclosed vestibule make it possible to pass with safety from car to car.

Another improvement in car design was the use of hot water heating which practically eliminated the danger of fire. Besides greatly increasing passenger safety new heating system made cars much more comfortable. When stoves were used the passenger near the stoves were too hot while those far from the stoves were always freezing. Today air-conditioning is widely used. This system not only filters the air but cools it in summer and warms it in winter.

2 Match the Words to their Definitions:

1.	Freight	**A**	A very large metal box in which goods are packed.
2.	Crew	**B**	To put a large quantity of something into a vehicle or container.
3.	Wagon	**C**	The place where someone or something is going.
4.	Bulk	**D**	Goods that are carried by train.
5.	Container	**E**	To take goods or passengers off a train.
6.	Destination	**F**	A group of people working together with special skills.
7.	Load (v)	**G**	A big mass or shape of something.
8.	Discharge (v)	**H**	A large container pulled by a train.

3 Complete the sentences according to the text:

1. But worst of all, these cars had……..
2. Another improvement in car design was……..
3. …system made cars much more comfortable……..……..
4. Today air-conditioning is……..
5. During the greater part of the 19th century all passenger cars had……..
6. These early cars were all……..
7. It is the combination of open platforms, wooden bodies and……..
8. …… that was the first great improvement in railroad car design in 1880s.

4 Translate into Russian:

1. Both Russian and foreign engineers work at the design of more comfortable cars.

2. All new types of cars always have a number of advantages and disadvantages.

3. It is the fire that people are afraid of very much.

4. The advantages of that car should be studied properly.

5. Since the beginning of its history the transport system has changed very much.

6. Everybody must know that the first sleeping cars were invented in the USA.

7. Russia will have a number of new coaches for use in high-speed trains.

8. Russian engineers have considerably- improved the car heating and lighting systems.

5 Make a short summary of the text:

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