

词汇: shipping 海运

Look at many of the items around your home and some will probably have been **imported** from abroad by ship. Moving **goods** around the world by sea is the easiest and most **cost-effective** way to do it. But what has made it more practical is the invention of the shipping **container**. They're not the most amazing thing to look at, but because of their design, and especially their **universal** size, it means they can be loaded and unloaded on to huge **vessels** at any **port** that is big enough to accommodate them. The standardisation of these simple metal containers in the 1950s and 60s marked a turning point in **world trade**, driving down costs and ultimately leading to **globalisation**.

Inside these **versatile** metal boxes could be anything from nappies to cars, and they are transported on container ships that **ply** our seas and oceans. They have been described as 'the monsters of the seas' because of their huge size. The very biggest are almost half a kilometre long and are piled high with more than 20,000, 20-foot-long (6.06m) boxes. In fact, the world's largest, The Port of Rotterdam, has a capacity of 24,346 TEU (Twenty Foot Equivalent Unit) – an exact unit of measurement used to determine **cargo** capacity for container ships and **terminals**. With around 5,500 container ships globally, it's incredible to think about the amount of goods being moved around the world.

However, because we now rely so much on these global **shipments** of goods, there can be problems when things go wrong. In 2021, the Ever Given, loaded with 18,000 containers, got stuck in the Suez Canal – blocking an important **trade route**. Countless businesses were affected by the delay in receiving their goods. One shipping company, Maersk, said the "**ripple effects** on global capacity and equipment" were significant.

Despite the occasional problems, our demand for goods is increasing, and so the shipping container is here to stay. George Griffiths from S&P Global Platts told the BBC: "We're seeing a lot more of the ultra-large container ships being built... the proportion of new ships that are moving over 14,000 containers is **staggering**." Each container can have a lifespan of up to 25 years. And even when the effects of wind, waves and loading **takes its toll**, some find **a new lease of life** as land-based **storage** units or even used as houses and hotels!

词汇表

imported	进口
goods	商品，货物
cost-effective	划算的
container	集装箱
universal	通用的，广泛适用的
vessel	船，大船
port	港口
world trade	世界贸易
globalisation	全球化
versatile	多功能的，多用途的
ply	定期往返（于）
cargo	（轮船或飞机装载的）货物
terminal	码头
shipment	运输
trade route	贸易路线
ripple effect	连锁反应
staggering	惊人的，令人震惊的
take its toll	造成破坏
a new lease of life	“重获新生”，使用寿命延长
storage	储物，储藏

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What is it about the design of shipping containers that makes them so useful?
2. What can be transported inside a shipping container?
3. How long are the biggest container ships?
4. Why was it a major problem when the ship the Ever Given got stuck in the Suez Canal?
5. True or false? *Shipping containers are scrapped after 25 years.*

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. It's not _____ to drive you to school every day – take the bus instead.

cost-effect	cost-effective	cost-effectives	costly
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2. We're waiting for a _____ of coffee to arrive from the supplier.

shipping	goods	shipment	imported
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3. The closure of the factory has had a _____ on the whole community.

lease of life	takes its toll	ripple effect	globalisation
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4. The ship left the port yesterday with a large _____ of timber.

cargo	ply	storage	goods
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5. The island has to _____ most of its food because it hasn't got the space to grow its own.

imported	imports	importing	import
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What is it about the design of shipping containers that makes them so useful?

Shipping containers are made to a universal size so they can be loaded and unloaded on to huge vessels at any port that is big enough to accommodate them.

2. What can be transported inside a shipping container?

Anything can be carried in a shipping container, from nappies to cars.

3. How long are the biggest container ships?

The very biggest are almost half a kilometre long.

4. Why was it a major problem when the ship the Ever Given got stuck in the Suez Canal?

The ship blocked an important trade route and meant a delay in delivering goods.

5. True or false? *Shipping containers are scrapped after 25 years.*

False. Some containers find a new lease of life as land-based storage units or even used as houses and hotels.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. It's not **cost-effective** to drive you to school every day – take the bus instead.

2. We're waiting for a **shipment** of coffee to arrive from the supplier.

3. The closure of the factory has had a **ripple effect** on the whole community.

4. The ship left the port yesterday with a large **cargo** of timber.

5. The island has to **import** most of its food because it hasn't got the space to grow its own.