

Getting the Message

- (1) In the mid-1800s, a letter could take several weeks to make the long trip from the east coast of America to the west.
- (2) All of that changed on April 3, 1860, with the introduction of the Pony Express.
- (3) The fast mail service from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California, slashed the delivery time to just 10 days.
- (4) The mail carriers had to be brave enough to negotiate vast tracts of spectacular, untamed terrain on horseback.
- (5) They traveled the nearly 1,900-mile route at about 10 miles per hour.
- (6) Every 10 to 20 miles they would stop at a relay station, mount a fresh horse, and be on their way.
- (7) After riding for 75 to 100 miles, the rider stopped at a larger station and handed the mail pouch to another rider.
- (8) The Pony Express was only in business for a year and a half.
- (9) In October of 1861, the transcontinental telegraph went into operation.
- (10) Now messages could travel from east to west in an instant.

語注

get the message 真意を理解する 《慣用表現としての意味》

(3) slash 大幅に削減する

(4) mail carrier 郵便配達員 negotiate うまく乗り越える、切り[通り]抜ける

tract 大きな広がり untamed 自然のままの、荒れ果てた terrain 地形、地勢

(6) mount 馬などに乗る

(7) pouch 郵便袋

(8) be in business 商売をしている、営業中である

(9) go into operation 実施される