

The Last Ferry

C1 Advanced · Travel · about 2 min of audio

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Name _____

Date _____

Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. The last ferry is not merely a _____ service, but the clearest measure of what a remote community can afford.
2. By then, the harbor has shed its daytime _____, and each delayed departure acquires the weight of a decision.
3. Critics call the final crossing an _____, since a half empty vessel consumes fuel that could serve a busier route.
4. Yet their _____ excludes the cost of being stranded: a missed boat can turn an ordinary errand into an overnight absence.
5. More than convenience, the service preserves a narrow but _____ freedom to leave without negotiating a bed, a favor, or a car.
6. On one island, the last _____ carries nurses home after late shifts and brings repair parts before morning.
7. That cargo is invisible in passenger counts, although its absence would become _____ within hours.
8. _____, keeping a vessel running for a handful of passengers is difficult to defend when budgets are already strained.
9. But shutting it early does not _____ expense, because it transfers risk from the operator to travelers least able to absorb it.
10. The final ferry, then, is less a luxury than a public promise measured in _____ rather than crowds.

Part 2 — Write every sentence you hear

1. _____

2. _____

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Answer key

Part 1 — the missing words

1. transport 2. efficiency 3. indulgence 4. arithmetic 5. consequential 6. crossing 7. unmistakable 8. Admittedly 9. eliminate 10. crossings

Part 2 — the full transcript

1. The last ferry is not merely a transport service, but the clearest measure of what a remote community can afford.
2. By then, the harbor has shed its daytime efficiency, and each delayed departure acquires the weight of a decision.
3. Critics call the final crossing an indulgence, since a half empty vessel consumes fuel that could serve a busier route.
4. Yet their arithmetic excludes the cost of being stranded: a missed boat can turn an ordinary errand into an overnight absence.
5. More than convenience, the service preserves a narrow but consequential freedom to leave without negotiating a bed, a favor, or a car.
6. On one island, the last crossing carries nurses home after late shifts and brings repair parts before morning.
7. That cargo is invisible in passenger counts, although its absence would become unmistakable within hours.
8. Admittedly, keeping a vessel running for a handful of passengers is difficult to defend when budgets are already strained.
9. But shutting it early does not eliminate expense, because it transfers risk from the operator to travelers least able to absorb it.
10. The final ferry, then, is less a luxury than a public promise measured in crossings rather than crowds.

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