

UNIT 4

READING TIME

nowadays - obecnie, aktualnie
heat - podgrzać
by accident - przez przypadek
other uses of - inne wykorzystanie (czegoś)
reach for - sięgać po coś
melt - rozpuszczać się
successful - udany
however - jednak, aczkolwiek
find out - dowiedzieć się

FROM RADARANGE TO A MODERN MICROWAVE

Nowadays there aren't many kitchens without a microwave - an electric oven that can heat and cook food very fast. However, not many of us know that the microwave was invented by accident.

In 1946, after World War II ended, an engineer named Percy Spencer was looking for other uses for the *magnetron* - a special lamp that was a part of radars during the war. One day he was standing in front of an active radar set with a chocolate bar in his pocket. When he reached for the bar, he noticed that the

chocolate started melting like snow. He was so amazed that he decided to build a huge box which would use the electromagnetic waves for cooking. He prepared popcorn in his first experiment and was very successful. However, when he was trying to cook an egg during the second experiment, it exploded. This way he found out that his invention was not perfect for every dish.

Spencer continued his experiments and the first microwave was sold in 1947. It was called *Radarange*, it was about 1.8 metres tall and weighed 340 kilograms. The smaller models that could be used at homes appeared only 20 years later.

Read the text. Are the sentences true or false?

- 1 Percy Spencer didn't plan to build a microwave oven.
- 2 He first saw the effect of microwaves on a chocolate bar.
- 3 He wasn't happy about his first experiment.
- 4 It took Spencer three years to build the first microwave.
- 5 The first microwave was very big and heavy.

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