

LISTENING: A DREAM INVENTION

Listen to an interview with British inventor Trevor Baylis talking about his clockwork radio. Put the questions in the order in which they are asked.



- a How many radios are produced each month?
- b How easy was it to find a backer and set up production?
- c What advice would you give to someone who had a good idea?
- d What gave you the idea for the clockwork radio?
- e How long did it take you to design a prototype?
- f How long was it then before the production of the radios started?

Match Trevor Baylis's responses (1–6) with the questions (a–f) in exercise 2.

- 1 "... Don't go down the pub and tell everyone about it."
- 2 "... it would have taken me two to three months, I guess ..."
- 3 "... I'm sure they must be doing 200,000 a month."
- 4 "... I was actually watching a program about the spread of AIDS in Africa ..."
- 5 "... Well, the important thing was funding."
- 6 "... I was given a chance through the BBC World Service to meet up with the guys from the BBC *Tomorrow's World* program ..."

Work with a partner. What do you remember about the story of Trevor Baylis and the clockwork radio? Complete the summary with appropriate words.

Dream Invention

One evening in 1993, Trevor Baylis was watching a program on television about the AIDS (1) *epidemic* in Africa. The program explained that the only way to stop the (2) s_____ of AIDS was to educate people about the disease. However, 5 broadcasting the information was extremely difficult. Most people didn't have a radio, as there was no (3) e_____, and batteries were too expensive. At this point Trevor Baylis dozed off and had a (4) d_____. He had dreamed up the concept of the clockwork radio.

10 It took him just two to three months to develop a (5) p_____ and decide that his idea could really work. He filed for a (6) p_____, and then the problems began. He wanted to find a backer for his idea, but every British company he contacted turned him down. However, his unexpected 15 TV appearance on the BBC program, *Tomorrow's World*, changed everything. Trevor Baylis was approached by a South African businessman, and soon money was found to (7) s_____ up a company with a factory based in Cape Town. The company was called Baygen, which stands for Baylis 20 Generators. Today, 200,000 radios are made in Africa each month.

According to Trevor Baylis, you do not need to be a genius to be an inventor. His advice to anybody who has a good idea – keep the idea to (8) y_____ until you've filed a patent, and 25 never give up.