

22 Great Inventions

Warm-up

1 Look at the photos (a–d). When were these things first used? Check your answers on page 92. How did they change people's lives?



Reading

4.17 2 Read the text. Do you agree with the author's choice of inventions (1–3)? Which inventions (4–6) are most likely to happen?

3  Speak Out What inventions would you like to see in the future? Why? Tell the class.

What inventions have influenced our lives most? Here are my top three choices.

1 Antibiotics

Most of us would not be alive if doctors didn't use vaccines and antibiotics. Three centuries ago, people only lived until they were thirty-five years old and most of them died of infectious diseases.

2 The Computer

Frankly, my best friend – it plays games with me, plays music to me, helps me learn. I would lose contact with the world if my computer wasn't there on my desk.

3 The Toilet

Go ahead. Laugh. Then try to imagine New York City without toilets. If we didn't know how to remove sewage and bring clean water into buildings, modern cities wouldn't be possible. We would probably have cities but they would look and smell completely different.

And what about the future? When Leonardo da Vinci did a drawing of a plane, fifteenth-century scholars probably said: 'Forget it, Leon. If machines could fly, we'd know about it.' Perhaps some inventions that look impossible today will become reality one day.

4 Teleportation

Life would be much easier if we could just disappear in one place and reappear in another. Imagine how much time, money and energy we would save if we discovered how to get to foreign lands in a split second.

5 A Universal Cure

We can already cure most diseases but new ones are still appearing. If we found a universal cure, we could get rid of cancer and AIDS and face any future flu epidemic. Perhaps DNA research can help?

6 Time Machine

If we could travel in time, I'd definitely go and meet a few people from the past. Maybe it will be possible one day.

Grammar: Unreal conditionals

4 Match the sentences (1–2) with their meanings (a–b).

- 1) Most of us would not be alive if doctors didn't use vaccines and antibiotics.
- 2) If we found a universal cure, we could get rid of cancer and AIDS.

a) unreal, imagined present situation
b) unlikely future situation _____

5 Complete the pattern with the correct tense and verb forms.

Condition	Result
if + _____	_____ /could (not)

Practice

6 Complete the sentences with the correct verb forms.

- 1) If scientists had (have) more money, they could find (find) a cure for AIDS.
- 2) Water and air not be (not be) so dirty if factories not produce (not produce) so much pollution.
- 3) If mobile phones not exist (not exist), we not be able (not be able) to talk to friends so easily.
- 4) We go (go) to the Moon if space travel be (be) cheaper.
- 5) If we can (can) write without pens or computers, we work (work) faster.
- 6) We have (have) more free time if robots do (do) our work.

7 Match the conditions with the results. Write conditional sentences.

1–e *If we didn't have email, we would write letters.*

Condition	Result
1) we have email	a) it is difficult to communicate
2) we use the Internet to find information	b) cloning is possible
3) we can't prevent natural disasters	c) we don't go to libraries very often
4) we have electricity	d) we use vacuum cleaners and dishwashers
5) scientists know the genetic code	e) we don't write letters
6) people don't speak one language	f) many people die