



Culture exchange



An inventor from the US – Thomas Edison

A lot of the things we enjoy today

(a) (invent) in the US. For example, potato chips, the microwave and the laser printer (b) all (create) by Americans.

Two forms of transport (c) (build) in the US before anywhere else, too. The aeroplane (d) (design) by the Wright Brothers and the first automatic car (e) (develop) by General Motors.

However, over 100 items (f) (make) by one person alone, Thomas Edison, making him the man with the most inventions in US history.

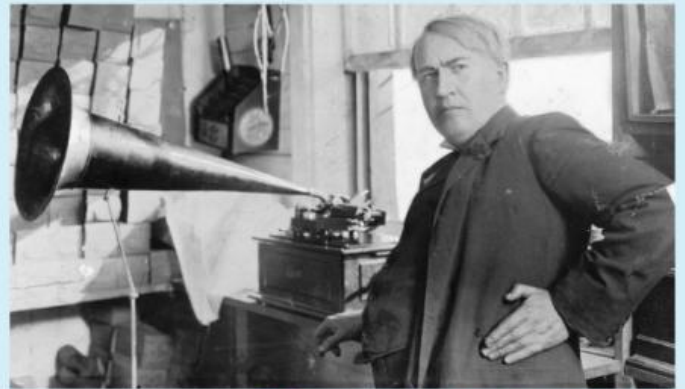
Thomas Edison was born in Ohio in 1847 – the youngest of seven children. He (g) (teach) by his mother at home. He read books from the library and (h) (encourage) by his mother to do experiments at home. He often took things apart to see how they worked and at a young age he decided to become an inventor.

When he was 22, he moved to New York and developed his first commercial invention called the Universal Stock Printer. He (i) (pay)

\$40,000 for it. He got a reputation as a brilliant inventor.

Some of his other inventions include the telegraph – a way of sending messages – and the phonograph – a way of recording sound. He also invented the motion picture, the battery for the electric car and, of course, the light bulb.

When he died in 1931, aged 84, the lights (j) (turn off) in many homes to show respect for one of the greatest inventors of all time.



5 Change the sentences from the active to the passive.

- 1 Philip Emeagwali developed the world's fastest computer.

The world's fastest computer

- 2 Ruth Graves Wakefield invented the choc chip cookie in 1938.

The choc chip cookie

- 3 Ayla Hutchinson designed the Kindling Cracker in 2013. The device is used for cutting wood safely.

The Kindling Cracker

- 4 Ed Sheeran composed the song *Photograph* in ten minutes.

The song *Photograph*

- 5 George Nissen invented the trampoline when he was 16.

The trampoline  **LIVEWORKSHEETS**

6 Complete the text with the correct active or passive form of the verbs given.

‘IT’LL NEVER WORK!’

The bicycle (a) (see) as a ‘fashion statement’ when it (b) (become) popular at the end of the 19th century. People (c) (believe) bikes were not practical or safe, and that they didn’t have a future. However, they were wrong. Later, bikes (d) (make) with better tyres. Roads (e) (improve) too, making cycling a cheap, healthy and practical way to get around.

The *New York Times* (f) (write) that cars were not practical in 1902. They (g) (consider) too expensive to become as popular as bikes. Then the first car factory (h) (open) by Henry Ford and the price of cars (i) (come) down. Eventually, cars (j) (become) more popular than bikes.

