

1 What do you know about T-shirts? Do the quiz.

- 1 The first T-shirts were produced in _____.
a 1804 b 1904
- 2 T-shirts were originally worn as underwear by _____.
a farmers b sailors
- 3 T-shirts became popular because they were worn by _____.
a famous athletes b actors in popular films
- 4 The most popular colour for T-shirts is _____.
a white b blue
- 5 _____ of T-shirts are sold every year.
a Millions b Billions

2 Read the description below and check your answers in Exercise 1.



The Big T

- 1 I love my T-shirts and I wear them all the time. So, when were they invented?
The first T-shirts were produced in 1904 as underwear. In 1905 sailors in the American Navy wore them under their uniforms. Later, farm workers started wearing them while they were doing their chores.
- 2 T-shirts only became popular in the 1950s, when they were worn by actors like Marlon Brando and James Dean in popular films. By the 1970s, everyone had one or more T-shirts. They were usually made of cotton, polyester (a man-made material), or cotton with polyester.
- 3 Today most people own T-shirts. The most popular colours are white, then black, dark blue and red. They can be plain, patterned or have an image on them, T-shirts are cheap and comfortable and that's why they're popular. Last year billions of T-shirts were sold worldwide!

Using the passive

You can use the Present Simple and the Past Simple passive when you describe a product.
Sports shoes are used to play basketball.
They were invented in England.

3 Circle the correct word.

Did you know that?

When were jeans first ¹invented / became?
The first jeans were ²bought / produced by Jacob W. Davis and Levi Strauss. They were ³designed / made of a material called 'denim' and they were ⁴designed / used for men who worked in dirty or outdoor jobs. Jeans ⁵been / became popular as street fashion in the 1950s. By the 1970s, most young people had a pair. Today, they are ⁶wear / worn by people of all ages. More than a billion pairs of jeans are ⁷sold / invented every year.

4 In your notebook, write about a popular product. Use the text in Exercise 2 and the notes in the box to help you.

1 Write the introduction.

What is the product that you like or use?

How and why do you use it?

Ask a question you are going to answer later.

2 Write about the product's history.

When was it produced?

Why was it used?

Describe how the product developed.

When did it become popular?

Who was it used by?

What is or was it made of?

3 Write the conclusion.

Do many people eat, wear or use it today?

Why is the product popular?

How many items are sold every year?