Unit 3.1: Lucky invention

LISTEN

E 1.18 **LISTEN FOR MAIN IDEAS** Listen to the podcast. Check [✓] three statements that you think the hosts of the podcast would agree with.

1. ☐ Some inventors have different ways of thinking.
2. ☐ Serendipity is mostly good luck.
3. ☐ Inventions are about 90 percent accidental.
4. ☐ Serendipity is probably only a small part of the process of invention.
5. ☐ Anyone can learn to think more creatively.

F 1.19 **LISTEN FOR DETAILS** Listen to segment 1 of the podcast. Put the events of Spencer's life in the correct order from 1 to 5.

_____ **a.** He started working on an idea for a microwave oven.

1 **b.** He was working with microwaves on a government project.

_____ **c.** He invented the microwave oven.

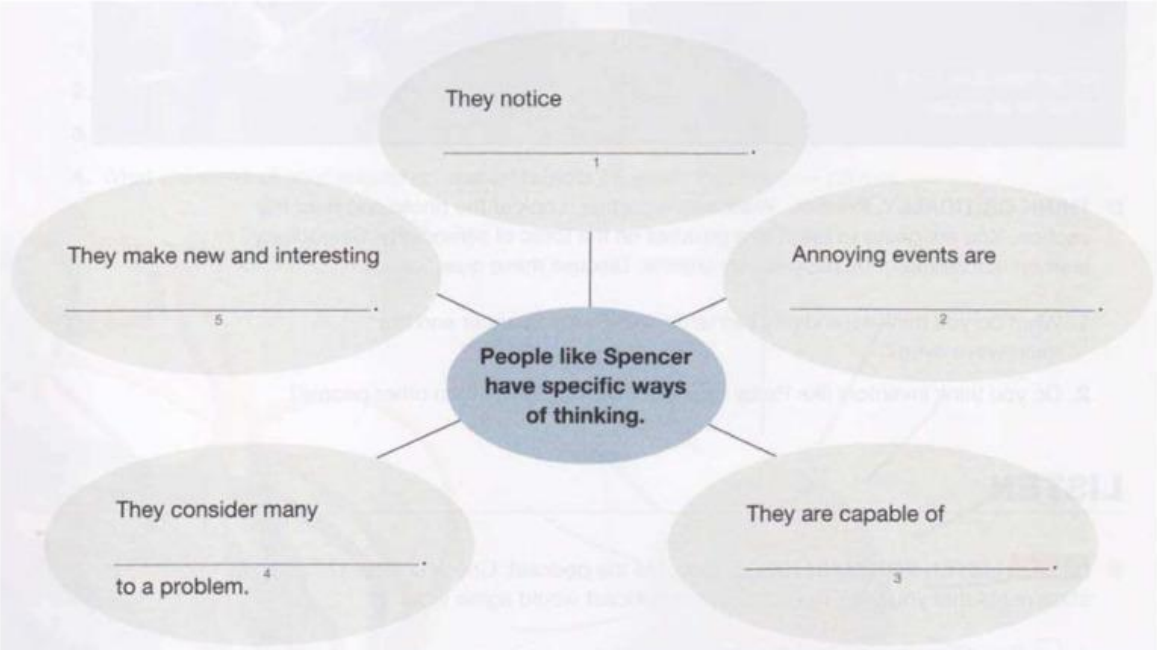
_____ **d.** He realized that microwaves had uses beyond his government project.

_____ **e.** Microwaves melted a chocolate bar in his pocket.

G 1.20 **LISTEN FOR DETAILS** Listen to segment 2 of the podcast. Complete the mind map with the information below. Write the correct phrase in each cell.

a. divergent thinking
b. connections between ideas
c. the beginning of ideas
d. things they were not looking for
e. potential solutions

LIVEWORKSHEETS



H 1.21 **INFER MEANING** Work with a partner. Listen again to excerpts from the conversation. Check [✓] the inference you can make from what the speaker says.

1. *"He realized that the microwaves had done it. That made him think—wow—maybe microwaves could be useful, not just for his government project but for something else."*
   - **a.** ☐ Spencer realized he was going to make a lot of money.
   - **b.** ☐ Spencer thought microwaves would be useful in cooking.
   - **c.** ☐ Spencer decided to leave the project and work on ovens instead.
2. *"Some people call it serendipity, but it turns out that it's a bit more than just good luck … First, they notice things that they were not looking for. A lot of us focus so much on our goals that we tune out everything else."*
   - **a.** ☐ Spencer knew the value of serendipity.
   - **b.** ☐ Divergent thinkers are often unsuccessful.
   - **c.** ☐ We lose opportunities when we focus too much on goals.
3. *"Yes, some people are more likely to notice things and make interesting and new connections between ideas. They recognize opportunities. In a way, they create serendipity."*
   - **a.** ☐ It is important to recognize these opportunities when they arise.
   - **b.** ☐ Serendipity is all in the imagination.
   - **c.** ☐ We are not all equally likely to experience serendipity.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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