Read the article again and answer the questions.

1 What did Bell do when communication companies dismissed his invention?

_____

2 Why did de Forest think that television would not be a successful invention?

_____

3 What does the author suggest children liked doing at the turn of the century?

_____

4 Why did some critics decide not to review the iPad when it was launched?

_____

5 What does the author say we need to have in order to recognise genius inventions?

_____

Match the words in bold in the article with definitions 1–5.

1 not accepted _____
2 have become more important _____
3 ready or prepared _____
4 possible _____
5 looking at something for a long time _____

CHANGING THE WORLD

Inventors have often been ridiculed when they first suggest a groundbreaking device or idea. From the aeropiane to the first moon landing, critics initially thought the concepts were impossible or would never be a commercial success, but often they were proved wrong. Modern technology has developed from many ideas that were originally regarded as absurd.

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries

Let's start with the telephone. Invented by Alexander Graham Bell in the 1870s, his device was **rejected** by communications companies at the time as being no more than a toy. The head of the British Post Office even asked why we would need such a gadget when telegrams and the messenger service, where couriers directly transported important written messages, worked so well. Bell had to found his own company to produce his invention.

And then there's television. In the early 1900s an American inventor, Lee De Forest, who is known as 'the grandfather of television' because of his inventions in sound recording technology, actually said, 'While theoretically and technically television may be **feasible**, commercially and financially it is an impossibility, a development of which we need waste little time dreaming.' Even as late as 1946 one movie producer said, 'People will get tired of **staring** at a plywood box every night.' Tell that to the parents of children at the turn of this century!

The twenty-first century

Can you imagine a modern home without a PC? In the early days of computers, few could predict how computers would be used at home. Nowadays we can't live without them unless you have a smartphone that does everything for you – another unimaginable idea a few years ago! And amongst the young, watching a computer screen has **overtaken** the TV as a free time activity.

Do you remember when the iPad was launched in 2010? The idea was to create a device that was more portable than a computer but easier to use for sending emails and browsing the internet than a smartphone. At the time, Bill Gates thought it was 'nice', but nothing special. Some critics thought it wasn't even worth reviewing and predicted that it would be a failure, but it turned out to be a huge success.

Scared of change?

Why do people often reject innovation? It may be because they are afraid of change – they prefer what they know or it may be that they are not **willing** to take risks, particularly financial risks. Or maybe it's because they like to find fault and lack imagination. While you are reading this, amazing ideas are being thought up which will, no doubt, change ou[illegible]

LIVEWORKSHEETS