



Lesson 3

Inventions All Around

1. Make lists of words under the following household items. Use the Word Bank.



light bulb

electricity



the radio

waves



soda

drink



correction fluid

tempera

Word Bank

- electricity
- waves
- drink
- thirsty
- tempera
- durable
- paint
- refreshing
- data
- transmit
- lightning
- mistakes

Reading Strategy

Before reading a text, activate your previous knowledge about the topic by looking into sets of related words and ideas.



2. Read this text quickly. Then match the following items to the paragraphs they belong to.

1. ☒ White Out

3. ☐ the light bulb

2. ☐ cola soda

4. ☐ the radio

Reading Strategy

Before reading for details, get familiar with the text by looking at it quickly to get an idea of how information is presented (skimming).

Inventions All Around

a. People all over the world have worked really hard to help humanity progress in different fields such as science and technology. There are numerous great minds of scientists and inventors who have contributed to solving a lot of problems for humankind. However, there are inventors and inventions that have also helped people, but that have never appeared in scientific publications. Some of these inventions are everyday items, such as the light bulb, the popular White Out, the radio and even soda drinks.

b. Light bulbs, for instance, are everywhere in houses and offices. Thomas Alva Edison worked for many years with electricity to improve the quality of the light bulb. He produced much more durable light bulbs which could last up to thirteen hours. Edison also worked on reliable electric lighting systems to help with the supply of electricity in neighborhoods and cities.

c. Another common item in houses and offices is the popular Liquid Paper or Wite-out. A secretary named Bette Nesmith Graham invented it in 1956. She used a mixture of white tempera paint that she had at home.

She used her formula to correct her typing mistakes in her office and soon many of her co-workers asked her for the magical liquid. She patented her formula and called it Liquid Paper.



Reading and Writing

- d. A Croatian immigrant named Nikola Tesla patented the radio in the United States in 1943. Basically, the radio has the capacity to transmit electromagnetic waves in the form of music, news and other data invisibly through air. Many other appliances such as telephones, remote control toys and microwave ovens use waves to work properly.

- e. In May 1886, Dr. John S. Pemberton wrote a formula for a headache remedy which he at first called *Pemberton's French Wine Coca*. Pemberton thought his drink did not have the healing properties he envisioned, so later he sold his drink to a group of

businessmen for them to sell as a drink to quench people's thirst. Frank Robinson, who had worked with Pemberton, designed the logo and the script name. He also added the phrase *delicious and refreshing* that goes with every Coca-Cola advertisement.

3. Go back to the text to answer these questions.

- Who improved the quality of light bulbs?
Thomas Alva Edison improved it
- Why did Bette Nesmith Graham invent Liquid Paper?

- Where did Nikola Tesla patent the radio?

- What did John Pemberton invent?

- Why did Pemberton sell his drink?

Reading Strategy

While reading for specific information, read quickly looking for words and phrases (relevant information) that answer wh-questions (**scanning**).



4. Label this encyclopedia entry.

- Mention an object, person or event.
- Define your object, person or event.
- Mention relevant information.
- Name examples.
- Use illustrations, pictures or graphs.

- a. **Steven Paul Jobs, (1955 - 2011)**

American computer designer and businessman. Together with Stephen Wozniak, he launched the first personal computer by introducing the Apple computer in 1976.

He has developed other computer-related hardware and software since then. One of his most recent creations was the iPhone in 2007.



5. Write an encyclopedia entry about one of the inventions or inventors presented in the unit. Share your entry with the class.

Picture,
illustration

(object, person)

(definition)

(relevant information)

(examples)

Writing Strategy

Follow model texts to complete writing assignments.

Project Stage 3

- Determine the order of your interventions and rehearse your presentations.
- Prepare a PowerPoint presentation with some pictures, colorful writing and interesting effects.



Lesson 4

Accidental Inventions



1. Read the following expressions and their meanings.
Listen to a radio program and match them.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| a. to have a one-track mind | 1. ☒ e to be easy |
| b. to get wise to | 2. ☐ to learn something one did not know |
| c. to have a light bulb moment | 3. ☐ to be a leader of a project |
| d. to be the brains behind | 4. ☐ to experience a sudden moment of inspiration |
| e. not to be rocket science | 5. ☒ a having the tendency to think about one thing only |



2. Complete the conversation among Sandra, Martin and Monique by using the idioms above. Then listen and check.



Monique: Did you guys finally get your new mobile phone to work?

Sandra and Martin: Yes, we did. We had a light bulb moment (a) after all the trouble.

Monique: Who solved it then?

Martin: I must admit it. Sandra was _____ (b) it. She can do several things at a time. I have a one-track mind (c).

Sandra: It was no biggie. I _____ (d) it after reading the manual very carefully.

Monique: I told you guys that getting the phone to work was not _____ (e) at all.



3. Think of school-related experiences where you can use these idioms.



Did you study for the test?

You just need to **get wise** to the material.

No, I didn't. It is not **rocket science**.

I totally agree.



Key Expressions

Ring a bell: to remind one of something
No biggie: not important

Speaking Strategy

Integrate idiomatic expressions into your daily vocabulary.

Reflect on Values

	Always	Sometimes	Never
■ I value other people's creative ideas.	☐	☐	☐
■ I believe in cooperative work.	☐	☐	☐
■ I respect the fact that people think different.	☐	☐	☐

Gap Activity

Student A goes to page 87.
Student B goes to page 89.