PART 1

THOMAS EDISON

On the night of 21 October 1931, millions of Americans **(0)** ..... part in a coast-to-coast ceremony to commemorate the passing of a great man. Lights **(1)** ..... in homes and offices from New York to California. The ceremony **(2)** ..... the death of an inventor – indeed, to many people, the most important inventor of **(3)** ..... time: Thomas Alva Edison.

Few inventors have **(4)** ..... an impact as great as his on everyday life. While most of his 1,000-plus inventions were devices we no **(5)** ..... use, many of the things he invented played a crucial **(6)** ..... in the development of modern technology, simply by showing what was possible. And one should never **(7)** ..... how amazing some of Edison's inventions were.

In so many ways, Edison is the perfect example of an inventor, by which I **(8)** ..... not just someone who **(9)** ..... up clever gadgets, but someone whose products transform the lives of millions. He possessed the key characteristics that an inventor needs to **(10)** ..... a success of inventions. Sheer determination is certainly one of them. Edison famously tried thousands of materials while working **(11)** ..... a new type of battery, reacting to failure by cheerfully **(12)** ..... to his colleagues: 'Well, **(13)** ..... we know 8,000 things that don't work.' Knowing when to take no **(14)** ..... of experts is also important. Edison's proposal for electric lighting circuitry was **(15)** ..... with total disbelief by eminent scientists, until he lit up whole streets with his lights.

LIVEWORKSHEETS