

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.