https://www.notablebiographies.com/newsmakers2/2004-Q-Z/Starck-Philippe.html

Reading and Vocabulary
Put the definition next to the correct term or expression.

Starck is the son of an airplane designer, Andre Starck. The elder Starck's job was **to noodle** novel uses for old designs, to take fundamental designs that already existed and make them better. Perhaps this is one of the reasons his son, Philippe, **has a yen for** redesigning our world. The young Starck started to show signs of an unusual eye for design from an early age. He played in his father's large workshop, which was **filled to the gills** with machinery, engines and spare parts that **were like catnip** to a curious boy. Starck's version of playtime was dismantling the machinery and putting it back together in his own way, much like his father. It was an inclination that would shape the rest of his life.

Starck, born to a well–off family that provided for him, might have shown a lot of promise at home in the workshop, but in the world around him he had a hard time fitting in. **A lone wolf** in school, he was unable to get along with his peers and, eventually, **dodged** school altogether whenever he could. "I was completely unable to adapt to society and school," he told *People.* "I spent my youth **making a break for it.**"

Things did not get better for him quickly. He showed signs of depression and as he grew older he still felt like an outcast. His one escape was in his hobby. But the hobby of dismantling and remaking known objects was about to become his life's blood. His interest in working with known objects took a turn toward design when he was in his teens and he attended the prestigious school Ecole Nissim de Camondo. By the time he graduated he was considered by everyone who saw his work to be a promising new talent on the design scene. Typically for Starck, he wished to work on something cutting edge so he started a company in 1968 that specialized in designing inflatable furniture. The company did not go very far but it succeeded in getting his work out in the public eye.

Solitary person	escaping	Preference	avoided
To think up	bursting	alluring	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Put the paragraphs in the correct order.

Starck found a professional niche in the Paris nightclub scene in the 1970s and gained a minor reputation with interior designs for the clubs La Main Bleue in 1976 and Les Bains Douches in 1978.	
	Not only was the president happy with the results but so was the public. With some wind at his back Starck started to secure more jobs.
	Cafes are a crucial part of life in France and competition is fierce. After Café Costes, every café in Paris had to set itself apart. Starck had started a craze and he was at the forefront of it.
	Famously, one of them was the Café Costes restaurant which sported a spectacular staircase and Starck–designed furniture.
	Finally, in 1982, the young designer got his big break. French president Francois Mitterrand hired him to design his private residence in Paris.
For the first time in his life he was able to pick the jobs that were interesting to him.	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Some celebrities like to claim that success didn't change them, but Starck would probably find that boring. He wears his success in a uniquely Starck way. He makes notes on plastic paper that's made just for him. He has many homes around the world which reveal that his life is as eclectic as his designs, including a huge New York City apartment, an oyster farm in France, and a house on the Seine next to a nudist camp. He has a staff just to make sure each house has the same items as the other houses, even the same books. Perhaps the best example of how Starck handles success can be found in the fact that he refuses to do business with companies that Starck deems harmful to people. Among these blacklisted companies are ones that deal in oil, tobacco, games, and alcohol. He claims to have lost a lot of money because of his strict standards but, according to him, he does not need any more money.

In Frankfurt, Germany, in 2002, he launched his Starck 3 collection for Duravit, a collection of bath utilities and accessories. Continuing his theme of design for the people, he told a crowd of about 900 people, as quoted by Aric Chen of *Interior Design,* "It's not just about bathrooms and ceramic parts. It's a political and strategic action." His speech to launch the line of products contained an enthusiastic line that caused a bit of a stir. "I hereby declare the design war over and won. Attractive products of good quality are being made everywhere today."

But in the midst of his enthusiasm he also claims to be depressed most of the time. He still struggles with the insecurities that made him a recluse as a child. His world view is more sophisticated now but, in the end, Starck has clearly embraced nihilism. He told his Frankfurt audience, "All the things that we hold true, such as the moon, the sun, and the stars, do not exist.

Write 5 questions about the text above.

LIVEWORKSHEETS