

0 A common

B frequent

C general

D routine

0	A	B	C	D
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The sticking plaster

Nowadays, one of the most (0) items found in the home is the sticking plaster.

Protecting a cut by covering the affected area with a piece of material that sticks to the skin may seem a rather (1) idea, so it is perhaps surprising to learn that the plaster was not (2) until about ninety years ago.

The person who thought (3) the idea was Earle Dickson, an employee of the Johnson & Johnson company. Concerned that his wife Josephine sometimes (4) accidents while cooking and doing other jobs, he used pieces of cotton material placed inside strips of sticky tape to cover her injuries. This prevented dirt getting into the (5) and protected it from further harm as she did the (6)

Dickson's boss was impressed, so in 1921 Johnson & Johnson put the new sticking plaster into (7) under the brand name Band-Aid. Sales at first were slow, but somebody at the company came up with the (8) idea of giving free plasters to the Boy Scouts. This created publicity and from then (9) it became a commercial success. Dickson was (10) within the company, eventually becoming a senior executive.

Although the basic design of the sticking plaster has remained similar to the (11), there have been many developments in the materials used and it is now (12) in a variety of shapes, sizes and colours. Total worldwide sales are believed to have exceeded 100 billion.

1 A clear	B evident	C plain	D obvious
2 A realised	B imagined	C invented	D dreamt
3 A up	B over	C in	D forward
4 A did	B had	C made	D took
5 A wound	B damage	C breakage	D tear
6 A homework	B household	C housework	D homecoming
7 A creation	B formation	C production	D construction
8 A keen	B bright	C eager	D shining
9 A after	B to	C since	D on
10 A raised	B lifted	C advanced	D promoted
11 A model	B original	C sample	D standard
12 A available	B achievable	C accessible	D attainable