

New exhibition at the Science Museum.

Host: Welcome back to the show. Now, a new exhibition opens today at the Science Museum, and all of the exhibits are everyday objects that we couldn't live **without**. Charlotte Heath, who has been to the exhibition, is with us today to tell us more about it. Welcome to the show, Charlotte.

Charlotte: Thank you.

Host: So, what kinds of objects can you see in the exhibition? Are we talking about modern **gadgets** like smartphones and tablets here?

Charlotte: No, no, **not at all**. This exhibition is all about the little or important things we have in our house and use every day. We use them so much that we probably forgot, or don't even realize, that someone actually invented them.

Host: Such as?

Charlotte: Well, a good example is the container we use to keep food in: the **tin can**. But I **bet** you don't know how it was invented.

Host: No, I don't.

Charlotte: Well, there's a very interesting story behind it. It was the French leader Napoleon Bonaparte who was responsible for this one. In 1809, he was worried about how to **feed** all his soldiers when they were away from home, so he organized a competition to try to get ideas for how to solve the problem. The first prize was 12,000 Francs and the competition was won by a French chef who had the idea of using **glass jars** to store food. A year later, a British manufacturer, Peter Durand, **improved** the design by using thin sheets of metal to make the container that became what we now call a tin can. The only problem was that he used **lead** in the can, which **as you know** is poisonous. **Several** people died after eating food from his tin cans.

Host: How unfortunate! Now, Charlotte, do we have time for one more story before the news headlines?

Charlotte: Sure. I can tell you about the **tea bag**. In the past, if you wanted to buy tea, you had to buy the **leaves** in a big box. To make a drink of tea, you would put the leaves in water, and you would often find small pieces of tea leaves at the bottom of your cup. Anyway, in 1908, an American tea salesperson named Thomas Sullivan had the **bright idea** of putting the tea in very small bags to give to his customers to try. Sullivan thought that customers would take the tea out of the bags in order to **try** it, but some of the customers didn't. They found it more convenient to put the bag into hot water, without actually opening it. So, tea bags weren't really invented by a company, it was the tea drinkers who **came up with the idea!**

Host: What an incredible story! And the Everyday Inventions Exhibition at the Science Museum will **run** until Sunday, July 25th. Right, Charlotte?

Charlotte: Yes. The museum is open from ten to six every day, so there's no excuse not to go.

Host: Thanks for joining us, Charlotte. And now it's time for the news headlines with...

GLOSSARY



A GLASS JAR

Without: sin



A TEA BAG

Gadgets: dispositivos

Not at all: no en absoluto

Bet: apostar



A TIN CAN

Feed: alimentar

Improve: mejorar

Several: varios/as

Try: probar

Bright idea: idea brillante

Come up with an idea: ocurrirse una idea

As you know: como tú sabes

Listen again and mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

1. The exhibition shows very special things that we don't often use.
2. Napoleon Bonaparte had a problem feeding all his soldiers.
3. A French soldier won the competition.
4. The first design was made of metal.
5. A later design killed a number of people.
6. In the past, people bought a big box of leaves to make tea with.
7. Thomas Sullivan sold the small bags of tea to his customers.
8. Fie told his customers not to open the tea bags.
9. Tea bags were really invented by some of his customers.
10. The exhibition runs until Sunday, July 25th.

