

# 2 ACCIDENTS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

## Before you watch

**A Pair work** Think about times when you had these experiences. Tell your partner what happened.

1. You did something by accident that turned out to be lucky.
2. You suspected something that turned out to be correct.
3. You experimented with something new.
4. You noticed something unusual that could be useful.

A: I was late for work last week because I forgot to set my alarm.

B: How did that turn out to be lucky?

A: Well, I missed a big traffic accident because I was late!

**B Group work** Which actions do you think accidentally resulted in these inventions? Write the letter of the invention next to the correct action. Discuss and explain your answers.



a. a powerful medical treatment

b. a common household appliance

c. a special material for attaching things

1. taking a dog for a walk \_\_\_\_
2. forgetting to wash the dishes \_\_\_\_
3. bringing a snack to work \_\_\_\_

## While you watch

**A** Write the letter of the correct word or phrase to complete each sentence. Were your answers in *Before you watch* part B correct?

- |                    |                |               |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| a. the microwave   | c. a magnetron | e. penicillin |
| b. hooks and loops | d. mold        | f. Velcro     |

1. \_\_\_\_ was discovered in 1928.  
It started as \_\_\_\_ on some unwashed dishes.
2. In 1945, Percy Spencer was working with something called \_\_\_\_.  
It melted his chocolate and led to the creation of \_\_\_\_.
3. George de Mestral identified that burrs work by using \_\_\_\_.  
He had to try lots of prototypes to finally invent \_\_\_\_.

**B** Choose the correct answers according to the information in the video.

1. Alexander Fleming was \_\_\_\_\_ to help humans.  
a. studying bacteria      b. culturing molds      c. mixing powerful drugs
2. Because Fleming \_\_\_\_\_, he noticed something interesting.  
a. was away on vacation      b. paid attention to an unusual change      c. was positive he could find a wonder drug
3. Percy Spencer was standing next to the machine that melted the chocolate because he \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. wanted to make a snack      b. figured he could blow up eggs      c. was working with military radar technology
4. Spencer's idea of containing his invention in a box was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. suggested by his co-workers      b. the result of making a mess      c. done to make its effects stronger
5. While removing burrs, George de Mestral was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. thinking about making new hunting clothes      b. curious about what made them stick      c. looking for a solution to his dog's problem
6. George de Mestral was confident his invention would be \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. very useful for astronauts      b. used as a prototype      c. velcro on the