

Unit 3.1: Lucky invention

LISTEN

E  **1.18 LISTEN FOR MAIN IDEAS** Listen to the podcast. Check [✓] three statements that you think the hosts of the podcast would agree with.

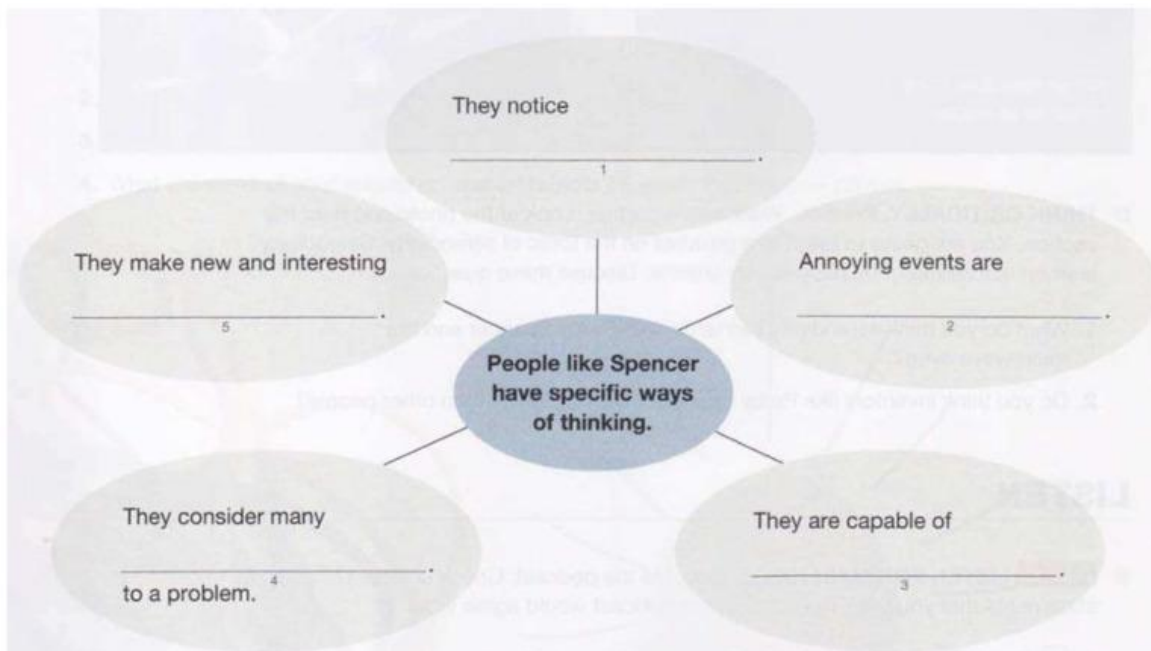
1. ☐ Some inventors have different ways of thinking.
2. ☐ Serendipity is mostly good luck.
3. ☐ Inventions are about 90 percent accidental.
4. ☐ Serendipity is probably only a small part of the process of invention.
5. ☐ Anyone can learn to think more creatively.

F  **1.19 LISTEN FOR DETAILS** Listen to segment 1 of the podcast. Put the events of Spencer's life in the correct order from 1 to 5.

- _____ a. He started working on an idea for a microwave oven.
- 1 _____ b. He was working with microwaves on a government project.
- _____ c. He invented the microwave oven.
- _____ d. He realized that microwaves had uses beyond his government project.
- _____ e. Microwaves melted a chocolate bar in his pocket.

G  **1.20 LISTEN FOR DETAILS** Listen to segment 2 of the podcast. Complete the mind map with the information below. Write the correct phrase in each cell.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. divergent thinking | d. things they were not looking for |
| b. connections between ideas | e. potential solutions |
| c. the beginning of ideas | |



H **1.21 INFER MEANING** Work with a partner. Listen again to excerpts from the conversation. Check [✓] the inference you can make from what the speaker says.

1. *"He realized that the microwaves had done it. That made him think—wow—maybe microwaves could be useful, not just for his government project but for something else."*
 - a. ☐ Spencer realized he was going to make a lot of money.
 - b. ☐ Spencer thought microwaves would be useful in cooking.
 - c. ☐ Spencer decided to leave the project and work on ovens instead.
2. *"Some people call it serendipity, but it turns out that it's a bit more than just good luck ... First, they notice things that they were not looking for. A lot of us focus so much on our goals that we tune out everything else."*
 - a. ☐ Spencer knew the value of serendipity.
 - b. ☐ Divergent thinkers are often unsuccessful.
 - c. ☐ We lose opportunities when we focus too much on goals.
3. *"Yes, some people are more likely to notice things and make interesting and new connections between ideas. They recognize opportunities. In a way, they create serendipity."*
 - a. ☐ It is important to recognize these opportunities when they arise.
 - b. ☐ Serendipity is all in the imagination.
 - c. ☐ We are not all equally likely to experience serendipity.

