

# LUCKY INVENTIONS

READ AND LISTEN TO THE SENTENCES WITH WORDS FROM THE PODCAST. GUESS THE MEANING OF THE WORDS IN BOLD, THEN, CHOOSE THE CORRECT MEANING.

1. Many people did not understand the **significance** of the discovery, but Spencer realized that it could lead to big changes in our lives.

**Significance** means:

- a. convenience                      b. importance                      c. quality

2. Some people have a **talent** for understanding mechanical things. They enjoy fixing cars and other machines.

**Talent** means:

- a. qualification                      b. inspiration                      c. natural ability

3. When I have to really concentrate on my work, I **tune out** everything else that is going on around me.

**Tune out** means:

- a. listen to                      b. reduce                      c. ignore

4. The noisy students in the library were **annoying**, but I was able to finish my assignment anyway.

**Annoying** means:

- a. causing great anger  
b. causing some frustration  
c. gradually increasing

5. There are many **potential** uses for this new technology, but it will take time to develop it.

**Potential** means:

- a. possible                      b. separate                      c. immediate

6. Engineers are **capable of** looking at a problem from several different perspectives.

To be **capable of** something means:

- a. to be prepared
- b. to be more likely
- c. to have the power or skill

7. The project took a long time, but we **eventually** finished it.

**Eventually** means:

- a. probably
- b. with great difficulty
- c. in the end

8. The **theme** for this year's conference is "Discoveries in the New Century."

**Theme** means:

- a. main topic
- b. news
- c. best idea

9. We need to **focus on** this task for now. We can't start thinking about the next one yet.

To **focus on** means:

- a. to work hard
- b. to direct attention to
- c. to keep up with

10. The work of many different scientists contributed to this invention. **In a way**, it was a team effort, not the work of a single inventor.

**In a way** means:

- a. it is partly true that
- b. it is most likely that
- c. it cannot be said that

**LISTEN TO THE PODCAST AGAIN. CHECK THREE STATEMENTS THAT YOU THINK THE HOST 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.

**LISTEN TO SEGMENT 1 OF THE PODCAST AND PUT THE  
EVENTS OF SPENCER'S LIFE IN ORDER**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

**LISTEN TO SEGMENT 2 OF THE PODCAST. COMPLETE THE  
MIND MAP WITH THE INFORMATION BELOW. WRITE THE  
CORRECT PHRASE IN EACH CELL.**

