

1. Read the text and match the titles to the paragraphs. One title is extra.

1. THE MAKINGS OF A BUSINESSMAN
2. SCHOOLING
3. MARRIED LIFE
4. A GREAT RESEARCHER
5. AMERICAN GENIUS
6. HEALTH PROBLEMS

Thomas Alva Edison

- A.** Thomas Alva Edison was an American inventor and businessman. He developed many devices that greatly influenced life around the world, including the phonograph, the motion picture camera, and a long-lasting, practical electric light bulb. He was one of the first inventors who applied the principles of mass production and teamwork to the process of invention. He created the first industrial research laboratory. He had a great number of patents in the USA, the UK, France, and Germany.
- B.** Thomas Edison was born in Ohio, and grew up in Michigan. He was the seventh child. In school, the young Edison's mind often wandered, and his teacher called him "addled" (испорченный). This ended Edison's three months of official schooling. Edison recalled later: "My mother made me. She was so true, so sure of me; and I felt I had something to live for, someone I must not disappoint." His mother taught him at home. Much of his education came from reading R.G. Parker's School of Natural Philosophy.
- C.** Edison developed hearing problems at an early age. The cause of his deafness was scarlet fever during childhood but his story was different: a train conductor struck his ears when his chemical laboratory in a boxcar (товарный вагон) caught fire. Later he used to say the injury had occurred when the conductor, in helping him onto a moving train, lifted him by the ears. However, the injury didn't keep him from research.
- D.** His family wasn't rich. Edison sold candy and newspapers on trains running from Port Huron to Detroit, and sold vegetables. He also studied qualitative analysis, and conducted chemical experiments on the train until an accident made further work of the kind impossible. Edison got the exclusive right to sell newspapers on the road, and, with the aid of four assistants, he set and printed the Grand Trunk Herald, which he sold with his other papers. Thus, he discovered his talents as a businessman. These talents eventually led him to found 14 companies, including General Electric, which is still one of the largest companies in the world.
- E.** The invention that first gained him notice was the phonograph in 1877. This accomplishment was so unexpected it seemed almost magical. After his demonstration of the telegraph, Edison sold it to Western Union that gave him a chance to set up the company Menlo Park with the specific purpose of producing constant technological innovation and improvement. Edison was legally attributed with most of the inventions produced there, though many employees carried out research and development under his direction. His patents included inventions or processes that are electrical, mechanical, or chemical in nature.

A	B	C	D	E

2. Read the text again and choose the right option.

2. **Thomas Edison was a great _____ .**
 1. Scientist
 2. industrial researcher
 3. mathematician
 4. physicist
3. **During school years Edison _____ .**
 1. was the best student in class
 2. disobeyed the teachers
 3. chose self-education
 4. preferred fiction books to textbooks
4. **Edison's deafness was due to _____ .**
 1. a disease
 2. an explosion
 3. the incident with the conductor
 4. birth defect
5. **Edison's hearing problem _____ .**
 1. prevented him from being an outstanding scientist
 2. made him an invalid
 3. took away a chance to teach
 4. stirred his imagination

6. It was clear at an early age that Edison was a born businessman when he _____.
1. sold candy and vegetables
2. worked on the train
3. started newspaper business
4. founded many companies
7. Edison was interested in many things among them _____.
1. physics
2. literature
3. chemistry
4. medicine
8. The invention of the telegraph _____.
1. made Edison a rich man
2. gave Edison a chance to have his own company
3. made Edison famous overnight
4. led Edison to the invention of a super bulb
9. Edison worked _____ in Menlo Park.
1. all alone
2. in partnership with other companies
3. with a team of talented employees
4. with his siblings

