



READING PRACTICE

Full Name: _____

Grade: III Section: ABC Teacher: _____

Date: August 2020

COMPETENCIA: LEE DIVERSOS TIPOS DE TEXTOS EN INGLÉS COMO LENGUA EXTRANJERA

CAPACIDAD: Infiere y comprende información de textos orales escritos.

DESEMPEÑO PRECISADO: Deduce ideas principales y complementarias de textos escritos a partir de información explícita e implícita

VELCRO: A SIMPLE BUT USEFUL INVENTION



A In 1941, a Swiss engineer called George de Mestral, was walking in the mountains and found that his trousers and his dog were covered in brown spiky balls from plants. De Mestral was curious. Under a microscope, he discovered that these balls were shaped like tiny hooks so that they stick to passing animals. He had an idea – what if this stickiness could be used on clothes? And the idea for Velcro was born! It took de Mestral eight years to design the uniquely simple fastener and his Velcro company was established in the 1950s.

B Initially, his product was not taken seriously but within a few years, Velcro sales rocketed. In de Mestral's life-time, 55,000 kilometres of Velcro were sold! Since the early 1940s, it has been used by NASA in different ways to stop objects floating around in space, from the astronauts' dinner plates to the tiny letters on the word game Scrabble, as well as their chess pieces!

C In the late 1940s, Velcro was adopted by companies such as Adidas and Reebok for shoes, and later it was used by the US military on uniforms. However, soldiers found that it was difficult to keep clean and noisy to use and so, after a few years, they reverted to using buttons.

D Nowadays, Velcro can be found on clothes, shoes, watches, bags, car mats, phone cushions and baby toys. It is used in hospitals to fasten blood pressure monitors to patients' arms and on baby blankets. In the first human artificial heart transplant, Velcro was used to hold the heart together.

E However, the Velcro company has been working for years to encourage people to use the product as more than just a fastener. In 1984, a Velcro representative was interviewed by a well-known American TV presenter called David Letterman. At the end of the interview, Letterman jumped off a trampoline onto a Velcro wall and hung there. The 'Velcro wall' is now popular with entertainment companies: individuals can hire the sticky wall and a suit for parties and other events. But it was only in 1993 that a Velcro game, with a Velcro ball and Velcro 'plate' for catching the ball, was invented.

F These days, Velcro comes in different sizes, colours and even shapes. A steel version of Velcro, strong enough to hold buildings together, has been developed by German scientists. It is now also being sold as an everyday 'home organiser', for keeping gardening and sports equipment tidy and for home improvement too, for example to hang pictures on walls. It faces strong competition from markets abroad. However, competitors' products cannot and will not be called Velcro as this is a brand name which remains as popular as ever.



Which paragraph (A-F) tells us about ...

1 how Velcro has been used in the field of medicine?

2 a new product which works in the same way but is made of different material?

3 how nature inspired science?

4 the use of Velcro to fight gravity?

5 one area where they decided to stop using Velcro?

6 some unusual physical activities that you can do using Velcro?

7 what people first thought of the idea?

8 the international market for Velcro-like products?



Match the underlined words in the article with the definitions.

trampoline - transplant - hooks - adopted - steel - reverted

1 a strong metal made from iron

2 decided to start using

3 changed back to

4 a piece of equipment which you can jump up or down on for exercise

5 a curved piece of metal or plastic, used for catching or holding things

6 a medical operation in which a new organ is put into someone's body