

Passage 2

1- In school, the young Edison's mind often wandered, and his teacher was overheard calling him addled. This ended Edison's three months of official schooling. Edison recalled later, "My mother was the making of me. She was so true, so sure of me; and I felt I am blessed and 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 and The Cooper Union.

2- Edison developed hearing problems at an early age. The cause of it has been attributed to a short time of scarlet fever during childhood and recurring untreated middle ear infections. But Edison was believed that is a feature advantage. Because of the deafness he became fascinated with technology and science. Edison sold candy and newspapers on trains, and sold vegetables to supplement his income. He also studied qualitative analysis, and conducted chemical experiments on the train until an accident prohibited further work of the kind. In 1866, at the age of 19, Edison moved to Louisville, Kentucky, where, as an employee of Western Union, he worked at the Associated Press Bureau news wire. Edison requested the night shift, which allowed him plenty of time to spend at his two favourite pastimes reading and experimenting. Eventually, the latter pre-occupation cost him his job. One night in 1867, he started fire, he was working with a lead acid battery when he spilled sulfuric acid onto the floor. It ran between the floorboards and onto his boss's desk below. The next morning Edison was fired.

3- Thomas Edison (February 11, 1847 – October 18, 1931) 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 the most important invention was the electric light bulb. He was one of the first inventors to apply the principles of mass production and large-scale teamwork to the process of invention, and because of that, he is often credited with the creation of the first industrial research laboratory.

4- Edison was a prolific inventor, holding 1,093 US patents in his name, as well as many patents in the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. More significant than the number of Edison's patents, are the impacts of his inventions, because Edison did not only invent things, his inventions established major new industries world-wide, notably, electric light and power utilities, sound recording and motion pictures. Edison's inventions contributed to mass communication and, in particular, telecommunications. These included a stock ticker, a mechanical vote

recorder, a battery for an electric car, electrical power, recorded music and motion pictures.

5- Edison's major innovation was the first industrial research lab, which was built in Menlo Park (today named Edison in his honour). After his demonstration of the telegraph, Edison was not sure that his original plan to sell it for \$4,000 to \$5,000 was right, so he asked Western Union to make a bid. He was surprised to hear them offer \$10,000 (\$208400 in today's dollars) which he gratefully accepted. After many experiments, first with carbon filaments in the early 1880s and then with platinum and other metals, in the end Edison returned to a carbon filament. The first successful test was on October 22, 1879; it lasted 13.5 hours. Edison continued to improve this design and by November 4, 1879, filed for U.S. patent 223,898 (granted on January 27, 1880) for an electric lamp using a carbon filament or strip coiled and connected to platinum contact wires.

Q1: What is the best title for this passage?

- A. How Edison left school and got educated at home
- B. How his teachers described him as a confused boy
- C. Edison the Great Inventor
- D. How he disappointed his mother

Q2: What was his opinion of his infection?

- A. a feature advantage
- B. a miracle
- C. an obstacle
- D. a mistake

Q3: What is the main reason that made him a scientist?

- A. intelligent
- B. deafness
- C. failure
- D. education

Q4: Why was he fired from his work?

- A. Because he was deaf.
- B. Because he started a fire.
- C. Because he was lazy.
- D. Because he wasn't educated.

Q5: What is the invention that made him famous most?

- A. the light bulb
- B. the phonograph
- C. the carbon stick
- D. the new experimenting

Q6: What does the pronoun "it" refer to?

- A. Edison
- B. his mother
- C. his teacher
- D. his deafness

Q7: What does the word "bless" mean?

- A. grateful
- B. bad
- C. addled
- D. failed

8: What does the word "bid" mean?

- A. offer
- B. prize
- C. invention
- D. money