

## The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 25/10/17

### Inventions that changed our lives

Today, we are going to look at some of the inventions that have changed our lives.

Automatic washing machines (1962) changed how people did their washing. Many people used to use twin tub washing machines, before moving onto a front loader washing machine. Many people in the USA and Canada use top loaders.

In 1963, the fridge freezer was introduced. It helped revolutionise how we stored food, without having to can, pickle or dry it. Two years later, in 1965, dishwashers first appeared. I got my first one in 2007. My parents had one back in the '90s.

In 1972, in the UK, Sinclair launched the first affordable pocket calculator – the Cambridge. There was also an Oxford version that I had. 1972 saw floppy disks for data storage appear.

Double glazing (1973) helps reduced our energy bills. It gained popularity following the 1973 oil crisis, when building regulations in the UK were tightened. '73 saw Ceefax start on TVs in Britain. This was an early form of information system.

Laptops (1988 onwards - Amstrad) have allowed us to use computers anywhere. In 1993, Dyson launched the popular bagless vacuum cleaner.

The introduction of child car seats for car travel have helped many families with young families travel safely. The laws and introduction dates of these vary from country to country.

LED lightbulbs, that could emit as much light as a 100W incandescent lightbulb, were introduced in 2015. While they help reduce our electric bills, they just aren't the same as the old lightbulbs we used to use.

Mobile telephones have revolutionised how we communicate. In 1999, Nokia introduced the Nokia 3210 that sold 160 million. In 2002, Nokia launched the camera phone. In 2010, Apple introduced us to the tablet in the form of an iPad.

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three inventions that changed your life. Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) What was a twin tub?
- 2) What was Ceefax?
- 3) What is a laptop?
- 4) What is a incandescent lightbulb?
- 5) What is a tablet?

#### Student B questions

- 1) What is double glazing?
- 2) What is a floppy disk?
- 3) What is an LED lightbulb?
- 4) What is a pocket calculator?
- 5) Name the crisis.

**Category: Inventions / Innovation / Inventors**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## Inventions that changed our lives – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* - On the board write as many words as you can about '**Inventions**'. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* - Think of three great inventors. What did they invent? Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

### SPEAKING - THINKING

*In pairs* - Think of three advantages and three disadvantages of three of the inventions listed in the article. Discuss together.

### SPEAKING – RADIO INTERVIEW

*In pairs* - *Student A* is an inventor. *Student B* is a journalist. *Student B* is interviewing *Student A* about their latest invention that they have invented. (Imagine!) *3 mins*

### SPEAKING – PRESENTATION

*In pairs* - Invent something together (Imagine!). Prepare a one minute presentation on it, to give to the class. *5 mins prep. 5-10 mins*.

### SPEAKING – A-Z

*As a class* - The A-Z of different inventions.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) When did you first start using a pocket calculator?
- 3) How important are dishwashers?
- 4) Do you use child car seats?
- 5) Do you have an iPad or something else?
- 6) What did we do before all the inventions listed in the article were invented?
- 7) Where are all your floppy disks?
- 8) How many mobile phones do you have?
- 9) Do you have double glazing?
- 10) What do you know about the 1973 oil crisis?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups*. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Inventions that changed our lives*.

- 1) James Dyson.
- 2) Clive Sinclair.
- 3) An inventor.
- 4) A budding inventor.

**The teacher** will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING – GAME 1

*In a circle as a class* - "I wouldn't be without my..." Explain why not, then move onto the next person. *3 mins*.

### SPEAKING – GAME 2

*In a circle as a class* - "I bought my first..." Briefly talk about it, then go onto the next person. *3 mins*.

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

*Allow 5 minutes* - As a class.

**Other inventions that changed our lives**  
**Discuss together**  
**Include some from your own country**

**The teacher** can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What else did Clive Sinclair invent?
- 3) Did you have Ceefax or equivalent in your country?
- 4) What do you think of LED lightbulbs?
- 5) Did you ever own a Nokia 3210?
- 6) What is the best laptop you had?
- 7) Do you pickle or dry food?
- 8) When did you last use a washing machine?
- 9) When did you last take a selfie?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## GAP FILL: READING

### Inventions that changed our lives

Today, we are going to look at some of the (1)\_\_\_ that have changed our lives. Automatic washing machines (1962) changed how people did their washing. Many people used to use (2)\_\_\_ washing machines, before moving onto a front loader washing machine. Many people in the USA and Canada use top loaders.

In 1963, the fridge freezer was introduced. It helped (3)\_\_\_ how we stored food, (4)\_\_\_ having to can, (5)\_\_\_ or dry it. Two years later, in 1965, (6)\_\_\_ first appeared. I got my first one in 2007. My parents had one back in the '90s. In 1972, in the UK, Sinclair launched the first affordable pocket (7)\_\_\_ – the Cambridge. There was also an Oxford version that I had. 1972 saw floppy disks for data storage (8)\_\_\_.

**calculator / pickle / inventions / revolutionise / appear / without / twin tub / dishwashers**

Double glazing (1973) helps reduced our (1)\_\_\_ bills. It gained (2)\_\_\_ following the 1973 oil crisis, when building regulations in the UK were tightened. '73 saw Ceefax start on TVs in Britain. This was an (3)\_\_\_ form of information system.

Laptops (1988 onwards - Amstrad) have allowed us to use computers anywhere. In 1993, Dyson launched the popular bagless (4)\_\_\_ cleaner. The introduction of child car seats (1997) for car travel have helped many families with young families travel (5)\_\_\_ . The laws and introduction dates of these vary from country to country.

LED lightbulbs, that could emit as much light as a 100W (6)\_\_\_ lightbulb, were introduced in 2015. While they help (7)\_\_\_ our electric bills, they just aren't the same as the old lightbulbs we used to use. Mobile telephones have revolutionised how we (8)\_\_\_ . In 1999, Nokia introduced the Nokia 3210 that sold 160 million. In 2002, Nokia launched the camera phone. In 2010, Apple introduced us to the tablet in the form of an iPad.

**incandescent / safely / communicate / reduce / popularity / energy / vacuum / early**

## GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

### Inventions that changed our lives

Today, (1)\_\_\_ are going to look at some of the inventions that have changed (2)\_\_\_ lives. Automatic washing machines (1962) changed how people did their washing. Many people used to use twin tub washing machines, before moving onto a front loader washing machine. Many people in the USA and Canada use top loaders.

In 1963, the fridge freezer was introduced. It helped revolutionise (3)\_\_\_ we stored food, without having to can, pickle (4)\_\_\_ dry it. Two years later, in 1965, dishwashers first appeared. I got my first one in 2007. (5)\_\_\_ parents had one back (6)\_\_\_ the '90s. In 1972, in the UK, Sinclair launched the first affordable pocket calculator – the Cambridge. There was also (7)\_\_\_ Oxford version that I had. 1972 saw floppy disks (8)\_\_\_ data storage appear.

**for / we / in / an / my / or / our / how**

Double glazing (1973) helps reduced our energy bills. It gained popularity following the 1973 oil crisis, (1)\_\_\_ building regulations in the UK were tightened. '73 saw Ceefax start on TVs in Britain. (2)\_\_\_ was an early form of information system.

Laptops (1988 onwards - Amstrad) have allowed us to use computers anywhere. In 1993, Dyson launched the popular bagless vacuum cleaner. The introduction of child car seats (1997) for car travel have helped (3)\_\_\_ families (4)\_\_\_ young families travel safely. The laws and introduction dates of these vary from country to country.

LED lightbulbs, that could emit as (5)\_\_\_ light as a 100W incandescent lightbulb, were introduced in 2015. (6)\_\_\_ they help reduce our electric bills, they (7)\_\_\_ aren't the same as the old lightbulbs we used to use. Mobile telephones have revolutionised how we communicate. In 1999, Nokia introduced the Nokia 3210 (8)\_\_\_ sold 160 million. In 2002, Nokia launched the camera phone. In 2010, Apple introduced us to the tablet in the form of an iPad.

**just / that / many / when / while / this / with / much**



## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### Inventions that changed our lives

Today, we are going to look at some of the inventions that have changed our lives. \_\_\_\_\_

(1962) changed how people did their washing. Many people used to use twin tub washing machines, before moving \_\_\_\_\_ washing machine. Many people in the USA and Canada use top loaders.

In 1963, the fridge freezer was introduced. It helped \_\_\_\_\_ stored food, without having to can, pickle or dry it. Two years later, in 1965, dishwashers first appeared. I got my first one in 2007. My parents had one back in the '90s. In 1972, in the UK, Sinclair launched the first \_\_\_\_\_ calculator – the Cambridge. There was also an Oxford version that I had. 1972 saw floppy disks for data storage appear. \_\_\_\_\_

(1973) helps reduced our energy bills. It gained popularity following the 1973 oil crisis, when building regulations in the UK were tightened. '73 saw Ceefax start on TVs in Britain. This was an early form of \_\_\_\_\_. Laptops (1988 onwards - Amstrad) have allowed us to use computers anywhere. In 1993, Dyson launched the

\_\_\_\_\_ vacuum cleaner. The introduction of child car seats (1997) for car travel have helped many families with young families travel safely. The laws and introduction dates of these vary from country to country.

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## WRITING/SPELLING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - *In pairs/As a class*, list **10 other great inventions**. Why? Talk about them. Talk about each of them. *Five minutes*.

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The best invention \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Mobile telephones \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Dishwashers \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Write down 50 words** about: ***Inventions that changed our lives***. Your words can be read out in class.

**4) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***Inventions that changed our lives***.

### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) information
- 2) automatic
- 3) freezer
- 4) calculator
- 5) appear
- 6) pocket
- 7) laptops
- 8) introduction
- 9) same
- 10) could

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) much
- 12) communicate
- 13) popularity
- 14) crisis
- 15) regulations
- 16) system
- 17) incandescent
- 18) revolutionise
- 19) tablet
- 20) inventions

Inventions that changed our lives – *25<sup>th</sup> October 2017*