

Read the following text:

Mr. Electricity

Who was Thomas Alva Edison and how he changed the world?

What is the first thing that you do when you wake up in the morning? What is the first thing that you do when you return home in the evening? What is the first thing that most of us do when we enter a room? That's right, we turn on the light. With a quick movement of the finger we change the entire atmosphere. Thanks to the electric light, we don't need to depend on the sun. We don't have to end our day just because the sunlight is gone. But who do we need to thank for the amazing and useful invention of the light bulb? The answer is: The American inventor Thomas Alva Edison.

“To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk”

(Thomas Alva Edison)

It seems that Edison had a very good imagination and many piles of junk. This is because the light bulb was not his only invention. He also invented many other inventions, such as a recording device, a microphone and a device which was an early version of the movie camera. And these are just a few examples. There is no doubt that Edison was a very creative person.

“I never did a day's work in my life, it was all fun”

(Thomas Alva Edison)

Edison was a very curious boy. He only went to school for a few years, and most of his education came from the science books his mother gave him. She encouraged him to study on his own, and to build a laboratory at home. When he grew up, he continued to explore the field of science and perform experiments. In 1878 he and his colleagues started to work on the invention of a light bulb that would work for many hours. The electric light bulb works by heating a thin strip of material. When the strip is hot enough, the light bulb starts to glow. It took Edison and his colleagues a long time to find the right kind of material.

“I find out what the world needs. Then I go ahead and try to invent it”

(Thomas Alva Edison)

Edison tested thousands of different materials until in 1879 he found the one material that made the perfect strip which was carbonized cotton. The light bulb produced light for over 15 hours. He continued to work on the carbonized cotton strip, and the more he worked on it the longer the light bulb lasted.

The light bulbs we use nowadays differ from the ones invented by Edison. It's the natural process of inventions, that they change with time. But the basic idea is still the same. Most of us take light bulbs as something obvious. They are everywhere. We only notice them and their influence on our lives once they stop working or are missing. The next time you turn on the light,

remember who was the man who made this simple everyday action possible for you.

Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about the text:

1. According to the first paragraph, how did people live before the invention of the light bulb?

- They used candles.
- They were dependent on the sun.
- They turned on the light.

2. Why does it seem that Edison had a very good imagination and many piles of junk?

- Because he had a laboratory at home.
- Because he was a fruitful inventor.
- Because the light bulbs have changed over the years.

3. Mark TRUE or FALSE:

- Edison's light bulb was invented in 1878 _____ false
- Edison invented the microphone _____ true
- Carbonized cotton can be heated _____ true
- As a child, Edison did not like to read books _____ false
- The invention of light bulb was a result of teamwork _____ true

4. What can be a good title for the text?

- The Invention of Light Bulb
- Why Do We Need Electricity?
- Edison's Team

5. Arrange the following sentences in the right order according to the text:

- * Edison continued to work on the light bulb.
- * He started to work on the invention of the light bulb.
- * Nowadays we use different light bulbs than the one Edison invented.
- * His team discovered the carbonized cotton would make a good strip.
- * Edison's mother gave him science books
- * He searched for the right material to use as a strip inside the light bulb.

Answer:

- * Edison's mother gave him science books.

- * He started to work on the invention of the light bulb.
- * He searched for the right material to use as a strip inside the light bulb.
- * His team discovered the carbonized cotton would make a good strip.
- * Edison continued to work on the light bulb.
- * Nowadays we use different light bulbs than the one Edison invented.

6. The last sentence in the text is a _____.
- a. conclusion
 - b. question
 - c. **suggestion**
7. How many of Edison's quotes are mentioned in the text?
- a. 4
 - b. 15
 - c. **3**
 - d. 24

Vocabulary

1. What is the opposite of "to wake up"?
- a. To rise and shine
 - b. **To turn in**
 - c. To roll out
 - d. To get up
2. What does "useful" mean?
- a. Something that everyone has.
 - b. Something that is not too expensive.
 - c. Something that helps you do things.
3. "Most of us take light bulbs as something obvious."
Which word is the opposite of "obvious"?
- a. **Unknown**
 - b. Common
 - c. Catural
 - d. Independent

Grammar

Fill in the missing verbs in the PAST SIMPLE tense.

1. Thomas Edison _____ (to be born) in the USA.
2. Thomas Edison _____ (to have) a very good imagination and many piles of junk.
3. He _____ (not/to go) to school very often.
4. His mother _____ (to encourage) him to study at home, so he _____ (to build) a laboratory there.
5. The first electric bulb _____ (not/to last) for many hours.
6. Edison's team _____ (not/to know) what material to use.
7. It _____ (to take) a long time before they _____ (to find) the right kind of material.
8. The best material for the light bulb _____ (to be) carbonized cotton.
9. The light bulb _____ (to produce) light for over 15 hours.
10. I _____ (to notice) my light bulbs yesterday, because they _____ (not/to work) so well.

Answers:

1. was born
2. had
3. didn't go
4. encouraged, built
5. didn't last
6. didn't know
7. took, found
8. was
9. produced
10. noticed, didn't work