

Inventions

Level

Intermediate and above

Tasks

- Matching a list of inventions with their inventors
- Underlining new inventions in a transcript of a business programme
- Reading a transcript of a programme about the British Invention Show
- Identifying words in the transcript from their definitions
- Creating inventions which students would like to bring to the market

How to use the lesson

- 1 Hand out the worksheet. Students complete exercise 1, perhaps as a quiz. Elicit answers. Tell students that the lesson is about some recent inventions.

Answers

<i>dynamite / Nobel</i>	<i>the telephone / Bell</i>	<i>electric lamp / Edison</i>
<i>television / Baird</i>	<i>ballpoint pen / Biro</i>	<i>the computer / Babbage</i>
<i>bagless vacuum cleaner / Dyson</i>		<i>the hovercraft / Cockerell</i>

- 2 Ask students to scan the second and third paragraphs of the transcript and underline the names of any inventions.

Answers

Paragraph 2: the Loc8ter / pedal-powered generator / folding robot / golf training aid
Paragraph 3: solar-powered hospital / wind-up radio

- 3 Students read the whole article. Ask them to tell you what they learn about the show, and what it takes to become an inventor. Deal with any useful vocabulary, such as: *award / generator / wacky / wind-up*.
- 4 Ask students to find the words in the transcript from their definitions.

Answers

(a) prestigious (b) innovative (c) gadgets (d) persistence (e) patent (f) backer

- 5 Ask students to work in small groups to create an invention. Be ready to help with ideas if necessary. Students can use an OHT if available. After the groups have presented their invention, hold a light-hearted vote for the best invention in the class. Finish the lesson by providing language feedback.

Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.britishinventionshow.com/show/index.html>

<http://www.theinventioncenter.com/index.php>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inventions>

<http://inventors.about.com/library/bl/bl12.htm/>