



مدارس الكلية العلمية الإسلامية
Islamic Educational College Schools



English Language

1st Semester 2025/2026

Grade (8)

Unit (1) *Early Inventions* Handout



Name:

Grade:

1. Unit's Content:

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4. Grammar:	
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b. Past Continuous	
5. Writing: Descriptive essay (describe an experience or an event)	18-19

2. Vocabulary:

Page 21- Keywords

NO.	Word	Meaning	Example
1	Device (n.)	a thing made for a special purpose	The iron is a device for pressing clothes.
2	Emergency (n.)	a serious or dangerous situation	You must stay calm in case of emergency.
3	Idea (n.)	a thought or suggestion	How did Wilson react to your idea?
4	Identical (adj.)	exactly the same as something else	We are identical in our views of what should be done.
5	Invention (n.)	something new that is made for the first time	The light bulb was one of the most important inventions of the 19 th century.
6	Patent (n.) / (v.)	a document that says you have the right to make or sell an invention	The inventor received a patent for her new robot.

Page 22- Academic Words

NO.	Word	Meaning	Example
1	Created (v.)	Made or invented	Alexander Graham Bell created a new device for people to communicate with each other—the telephone.
2	Function (n.) / (v.)	The purpose of something	The function of a washing machine is to clean clothes.
3	Significant (adj.)	Noticeable or important	The invention of the computer had a significant impact on society.
4	Technology (n.)	All the knowledge and equipment used in science.	As technology has improved, scientists have been able to develop many new products.

Pages 24-27

NO.	Word	Meaning	Example
1.	Ice skating	shoes with sharp blades attached to move smoothly on ice	Ice skating was great fun and fairly easy to learn, which really surprised me.
2	General anesthesia	Placing patients in a sleeplike state during surgery	He used general anesthesia to perform the surgery
3	Manufacturer (n.)	Someone who makes goods to sell.	They're one of the country's leading manufacturers of children's clothing.
4	Fireproof (adj)	Able to resist fire or great heat	Remember to store valuable papers in a fireproof box.
5	Windshield (n)	A window at the front of a car or other vehicle	The windshield needs to be cleaned daily as to allow clear vision.



Write each word in the box next to its definition.

emergency

device

idea

identical

invention

patent

Example: device : a machine or other small object that does a special job

1. _____: exactly the same as something else
2. _____: something new that is made for the first time
3. _____: a serious or dangerous situation
4. _____: a document that says you have the right to make or sell an invention
5. _____: a thought or suggestion

B. Fill in the gaps with the most suitable answer:

patent / technology / manufacturers/ windshield / significant / fireproof

1. There has been a _____ increase in car accidents because of the snow storm.
2. The latest _____ advancements have improved the way we communicate.
3. The _____ of Tesla cars have warned people against careless driving.
4. The building's _____ materials ensured the safety of its occupants during fire.
5. You should clean your _____ before you start driving.
6. The company applied for a _____ to protect its creative invention from being copied.



C. Choose the best answer, and write the part of speech in brackets :

1. The skilled surgeon is about to (*performance / make / perform*) a delicate surgery. (.....)
2. Inventors are excited about (*invention/ inventing / invent*) new technologies that make life easier.(.....)
3. This machine is incredibly (*function / functional*) and user-friendly (.....)
4. The world changed rapidly after the (*invent / invention / inventor*) of the phone. (.....)
5. They used (*creative/ creation/ creatively*) methods to impress investors. (.....)
6. They are the most (*technologically / technology / technological*) advanced nation in the world. (.....)
7. I'm so tired today, I can barely (*function(n.) / function (verb) /functional*)

Writing Task (1)

Imagine you were a journalist for a science magazine. **Write a paragraph** about a new invention that you found interesting. **Describe** the invention, **explain** what it does, and **why** you think it is important. Use academic words and key words in your description.

3. Reading Comprehension:

After reading the text in p.24-27, answer these extra reading comprehension questions:

1. How did John Merlin introduce his invention?

.....

2. How did John Joseph Merlin's invention for dry land ice skating go wrong at the fancy party?

.....

3. What was the advantage of using general anesthesia in surgery?

.....

4. Besides performing operations, what else did Seishu Hanaoka do in his career?

.....

5. Who were the first people to consume canned food?

6. In what year were the first canned foods produced for Great Britain's Royal Navy?
7. How do the paper bags used in many grocery stores today compare to Margaret Knight's original designs?
.....
8. What was the problem with boats before Maria Beasley's invention?
.....
9. What improvements did Maria Beasley make to life rafts compared to the previous wooden boards used on boats?
.....
10. Was Maria Beasley's invention lifesaving? Explain.
.....
11. How did Mary Anderson get her inspiration for the windshield wipers?
.....
12. What was ironic about the invention of the windshield wiper?
.....
13. What type of vehicles would eventually use Victor Ochoa's improved electric brake?
14. Mention two other inventions invented by Ochoa.
15. Why was Camarena invention groundbreaking?
.....
16. How are instant noodles prepared, according to the text?
.....
17. Find the words that has the same meaning of these words :

1. Improve <i>p.24</i>	2. Barriers <i>p. 25</i>
3. A street market selling second-hand goods <i>p. 27</i>	4. A radio or television program <i>p. 25</i>

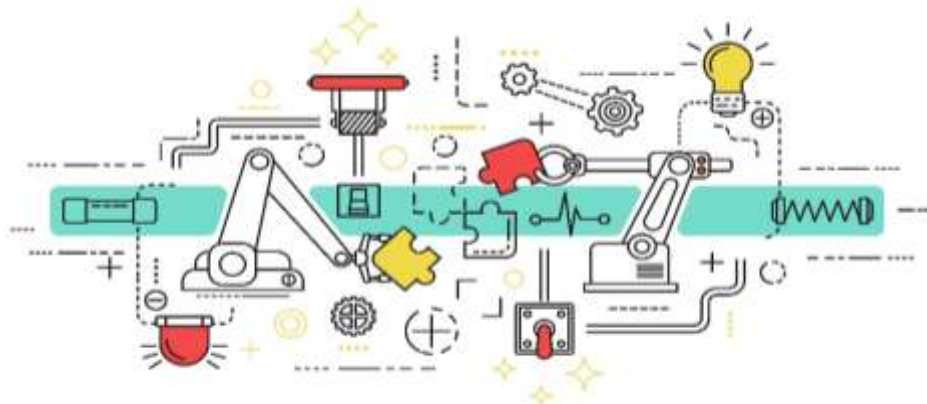


Critical thinking

What do these historical inventors and their innovations tell us about the role of creativity and problem-solving in advancing technology and improving everyday life? Connect your answer to your own life with examples.

Writing Task (2)

Think about an invention that has **not** been created yet but that you hope to invent in the future. What would this invention be, and how would it work? Write a paragraph explaining your invention and how it could help people, **making sure to include words from the reading.**



4. Grammar:

A. Past Simple (regular and irregular verbs)

Uses of Simple Past Tense

The simple past tense is used:

A. to express actions that took place at some point of time in the past and are over now.

Examples:

- He **joined** the academy last year.
- The steamer **sailed** yesterday.

The past of **be** (am/is/are) is **was/were**:

I/he/she/it	was/wasn't
we/you/they	were/weren't

was	I/he/she/it?
were	we/you/they?

- ☐ I **was** annoyed because **they were** late.
- ☐ **Was the weather** good when **you were** on holiday?
- ☐ **They weren't** able to come because **they were** so busy.
- ☐ I **wasn't** hungry, so I didn't eat anything.
- ☐ Did you go out last night or **were you** too tired?

Irregular Verbs

Irregular verbs have special past tense forms. They do not end in -d or -ed. You will need to memorize these special forms.

Example:
drive, drove



Regular Verbs

When forming the past tense of regular verbs, add -d or -ed to the present tense form of the verb.

Example:
cook, cooked



⑦ A. Write the Past Simple of each verb in the correct column:

open marry like try bake stop mix plan repeat worry decide travel

-ed	-d	-ied	double consonant + -ed
opened			

⑦ B. Complete the sentences with the Past Simple of the verbs in brackets:

- My sister tried (try) to bake a cake last Saturday.
- We (not order) steak and chips at the restaurant yesterday.
- I (phone) my cousin in Canada three days ago.
- The children (play) on the computer yesterday.

⑦ C. Write questions with the words below. Then answer the questions according to the pictures. Use the Past Simple:



- Rob / buy a small car
Did Rob buy a small car?
No, he didn't. He bought a jeep.

- cowboys / drive cars / in the 1880s
.....
.....

- Jenny / wear a skirt / to the party
.....
.....

- the teacher / speak Greek / in the lesson
.....
.....

⑦ D. Fill in the gaps with correct form of the verb. Use the Past Simple:

- Before the invention of smartphones, people rarely (**communicate**) through text messages.
- Last summer, they (**travel**) to five different countries in Europe.
- When he was young, he (**dream**) of becoming an astronaut.
- She (**not / study**) at the library, she spent the day studying at home.
- you (learn) to speak a foreign language when you were in school?
- How they (**manage**) to escape the police?
- Why you (**call**) me earlier? I (**not/be**) awake.

B. Past Continuous

Study this example situation:



Yesterday Karen and Jim played tennis. They started at 10 o'clock and finished at 11.30.

So, at 10.30 they **were playing** tennis.

They **were playing** = they were in the middle of playing.
They had not finished playing.

Was/were -ing is the *past continuous*:

I/he/she/it	was
we/you/they	were

playing
doing
working etc.

Compare the *past continuous* (I **was doing**) and *past simple* (I **did**):

I **was watching** television when she **rang** me.

past continuous

past simple

My sister **cut** her finger while she **was chopping** some onions.

past simple

past continuous

A) Complete the following sentences with the past continuous of the verbs in the brackets :

1. Alice hurt herself while she _____ (skate).
2. I met my neighbor while I _____ (walk) home.
3. Sally saw a friend while she _____ (ride) her bicycle along Park St.
4. Peter fell asleep while he _____ (study).
5. Mary _____ (read) in bed when she _____ (hear) a strange noise downstairs.

B) Circle the correct verb form in each of the following sentences:

1. Mary (**prepared / was preparing**) lunch when they (**arrived / were arriving**).
2. Tom was very unlucky. It (**rained / was raining**) during his holidays.
3. Last weekend Susan (**fell / was falling**) and (**broke/ was breaking**) her leg.
4. When I (**entered / was entering**) the cafeteria, Mary (**had / was having**) lunch.
5. We (**drove/ were driving**) to Berlin in Robert's new car.
6. The sun (**shone / was shining**) brightly when I (**got up / was getting up**) this morning.
7. Ann finally (**told / was telling**) us the whole story about Peter.

C) Put the verb into the correct form, using past continuous or past simple.

1. Jenny _____ (**wait**) for me when I _____ (**arrive**).
2. "What _____ you _____ (**do**) at this time yesterday?" "I _____ (**be**) asleep."
3. _____ you _____ (**go**) out last night? 'No, I was too tired.'
4. How fast _____ you _____ (**drive**) when the accident _____ (**happen**)?
5. Sam _____ (**take**) a picture of me while I _____ (**not / look**).
6. We were in a very difficult position. We _____ (**not / know**) what to do.
7. I haven't seen Alan for ages. When I last _____ (**see**) him, he _____ (**try**) to find a job.
8. I _____ (**walk**) along the street when suddenly I _____ (**hear**) footsteps behind me. Somebody _____ (**follow**) me. I was scared, and I _____ (**start**) to run.
9. When I was young, I _____ (**want**) to be a pilot.
10. Last night, I _____ (**drop**) a plate while I _____ (**do**) the washing-up. Fortunately it _____ (**not / break**)



Writing Task (3)

Imagine you are an inventor looking back on your greatest invention. Write a paragraph telling people how you came up with the idea, the challenges you faced, and how you finally succeeded. Include a flashback to a specific moment that was crucial to the invention process. Focus on using the past simple, past continuous, and past perfect.

My Greatest Invention



5. Unseen Text:

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

The Remarkable Life and Contradictions of Thomas Edison

Thomas Edison, in full Thomas Alva Edison, (born February 11, 1847, Milan, Ohio, U.S.—died October 18, 1931, West Orange, New Jersey), American inventor who held a world-record 1,093 patents. In addition, he created the world's first industrial research laboratory.

Edison was the quintessential American inventor in the era of Yankee ingenuity. He began his career in 1863, in the adolescence of the telegraph industry, when virtually the only source of electricity was primitive batteries putting out a low-voltage current. Before he died, in 1931, he had played a critical role in introducing the modern age of electricity.

From his laboratories and workshops emerged the phonograph, the carbon-button transmitter for the telephone speaker and microphone, the incandescent lamp, a revolutionary generator of unprecedented efficiency, the first commercial electric light and power system, an experimental electric railroad, and key elements of motion-picture apparatus, as well as a host of other inventions. It was a revolutionary invention.

Edison's career, the fulfillment of the American dream of rags-to-riches through hard work and intelligence, made him a hero to his country. He was a celebrity everywhere and had an exceptional charismatic personality. On the other hand, some say that he was an oppressor at his workplace with his employees. Also, he wasn't a good family man and he neglected his family responsibility. Perhaps, this is the price of being a great memorable inventor.

By the time he was in his middle 30s Edison was said to be the best-known American in the world. When he died he was venerated and mourned as the man who, more than any other, had laid the basis for the technological and social revolution of the modern electric world.

- ① 1. Who was Thomas Edison, and what is he known for?
.....
2. How many patents did Thomas Edison hold, and what were some of his most significant inventions?.....
3. What is described as the quintessential American inventor in the era of Yankee ingenuity?
.....
4. What were some of the inventions that were created in Edison's laboratories and workshops?

.....

5. How was Thomas Edison perceived by the public during his lifetime?

.....

7. What do you think Thomas Edison's personality. Give justification.

.....

8. Find a word from the text that means "for the first time"

9. What does the underlined pronoun "it" refer to?



Critical thinking

In your opinion, should Edison be primarily remembered for his inventions or for the controversies and complexities surrounding his life? Explain your answer?

.....

.....



6. Listening:

Listen to the radio programme and do the exercise to practise and improve your listening skills.

Preparation

Do this exercise before you listen. Write the inventions in the correct group. If you don't know, have a guess!

Time travel machine	Indoor cloud-maker machine	Sign language translation gloves	Wingsuits (that enable you to fly)
Air-maker (for use on other planets)	Bio-fabric clothes (that change colour according to the wearer's mood)	Solar water distiller	Digital running shoes (that give you performance statistics)

Real inventions	Fictional inventions



1. Check your understanding: true or false

Do this exercise while you listen. Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

- | | | | |
|----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | Wingsuits allow people to fly or glide. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | Wingsuits are getting cheaper. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Gabriele Diamanti's water distiller is powered by the sun. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | The 'enable talk gloves' help people to use sign language in really cold conditions. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | James Cameron invented a new underwater camera. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | MIT students have invented a new type of ketchup. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | The last invention is a way of producing clouds indoors. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | The science correspondent thinks the clouds are ugly. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: gap fill

Do this exercise while you listen. Write the word to fill the gaps.

1. Wingsuits are not very _____, but the modern ones are better than ever.
2. Last October was the first ever wingsuit world _____ in China.
3. You can buy a wingsuit for 600 to _____ dollars.
4. The water distiller is for places where it's hard to get clean _____ water.
5. To produce the water distiller properly, they still need help with _____.
6. The 'enable talk gloves' were invented by some Ukrainian _____.
7. The gloves use sensors to turn sign language into _____ and then into spoken _____.
8. James Cameron was part of a team which designed a submarine capable of descending to _____ kilometres down.
9. James Cameron was the first person to do a solo _____ so deep under the sea.
10. MIT students have invented a product that helps people get the contents out of _____.
11. A Dutch _____ has found a way of creating clouds indoors.
12. You can't make clouds for yourself at _____ yet.



Discussion

Which of these new inventions would you most like to try out?

Scan the QR code to find the audio:

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/skills/listening/b2-listening/new-inventions>



x





7. Writing:

Descriptive essay

(describe an experience or an event)

Read the following example



Attending a football match in Madrid is an unforgettable experience filled with vibrant colors and electrifying sounds. As I arrived at the stadium, the air buzzed with anticipation. Fans in team jerseys created a sea of colors, and the aroma of delicious street food, especially churros, added to the festive atmosphere.

Upon entering, I was struck by the packed stands and the palpable energy. The sound of drums and chants echoed around me, and I felt the ground shake as the crowd jumped in unison. When the players took the field, the bright floodlights illuminated the pitch, and the excitement intensified.

The game was nonstop action, with players sprinting and skillfully dodging each other. Each time a player approached the goal, tension filled the air. The exhilarating sound of the ball hitting the net was music to our ears, and when the home team scored, the stadium erupted in celebration.

As the final whistle blew, I left the stadium with unforgettable memories. The cheers of the crowd and the vibrant colors of the jerseys lingered in my mind. Attending that match in Madrid was not just about watching a game; it was about experiencing the passion and excitement of football.

Structure:

Introduction:

Include something interesting and why this event is important / fun to go to

Description of location, time, date

Describe the activities that happened

Describe the sensory details:
Smells, colors, sounds, tastes

Conclusion:


Summarize why this event was worth attending and what you especially enjoyed

Outline:


Introduction

1. Hook – Write a sentence that grabs the reader’s attention:

Example: “Have you ever had a moment that changed everything?”


 _____

2. Background – Briefly explain what the event is and why it matters:

 _____


3. Thesis Statement – What is the main idea of your essay?

Example: “This essay describes the day I overcame my fear of public speaking.”


 _____


Body Paragraph 1: Setting the Scene

Where and when did the event happen? What was the atmosphere like?

 _____


Use sensory details (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste):

 _____


 _____


Body Paragraph 2: What Happened

Describe the event in order. What did you do? Who was there?

 _____


How did you feel during the event?

 _____

 _____

Body Paragraph 3: The Most Important Moment

What was the most exciting or meaningful part of the event?

 _____

Why was it important to you?


 _____

Conclusion

What did you learn or realize from the event?

Final thought or message to the reader:

Example: "That day taught me that courage grows when we face our fears."

 _____

Now Let's write! Choose a remarkable event that you attended. Organize your ideas, and then write a descriptive essay. Check your final work against the rubric provided.

[illegible]

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

After you finish your first draft, check for mistakes using the following checklist

- ☐ Adding a topic sentence to the introduction
- ☐ Writing the title
- ☐ Including details about the event in all paragraphs.
- ☐ Answering all 5 WH questions.
- ☐ Using lots of adjectives or phrases that draw pictures in readers' minds
- ☐ Using sequence words
- ☐ Clear handwriting
- ☐ Accurate spelling
- ☐ Using correct tense
- ☐ Using correct punctuation marks and avoiding capitalization mistakes.

**Good
Luck**

