

Inventions

UNIT

6



What Do You Think?

Answer the questions with your best guess. Circle **Yes** or **No**.

Do you think . . .

- | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|
| 1. people in England saw frozen food in packages for the first time? | Yes | No |
| 2. people didn't like frozen food in packages at first? | Yes | No |
| 3. Birdseye is the name of the person who started a company? | Yes | No |
| 4. Gillette invented a razor that you could throw away? | Yes | No |
| 5. Gillette had his picture on every package of razors? | Yes | No |

Dinner Fresh from the Freezer

Pre-Reading

Discuss the answers to these questions with your classmates.

1. Which of the foods on the table can come from your freezer?
2. Does frozen food and fresh food have the same taste?
3. Which foods can be frozen?



Key Vocabulary

Do you know these words? Match the words or phrases with the meanings.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. convenient _____ | a. food that is hard because it is stored at a very cold temperature |
| 2. curiosity _____ | b. tasty |
| 3. delicious _____ | c. interest |
| 4. diet _____ | d. helpful; useful |
| 5. fur _____ | e. see if something works or not |
| 6. frozen food _____ | f. flavor |
| 7. taste _____ | g. thick hair of animals |
| 8. try out _____ | h. the kind of food you eat every day |



Track 11

Dinner Fresh from the Freezer

1 **Y**ou need to make dinner, but don't have any fresh vegetables. So you
go to the freezer and take out some frozen ones. When you have dinner,
the **taste** of the vegetables is fresh and **delicious**. You can thank Clarence
Birdseye for that. Clarence Birdseye invented a way for us to have **frozen**
5 **food** in **convenient** packages.

Clarence Birdseye was born in 1886 in Brooklyn, New York. He was one of
eight children. He loved nature and animals. Later, he started to study biology
at college. He didn't finish college and started to work to make money. In
many jobs around the country, he worked with animals and nature.

10 In 1912, Birdseye went to the north of Canada. He liked it there and
bought and sold **fur**. He also took his new wife and baby son there. They lived
in a cabin 250 miles away from the nearest doctor. He often traveled with the
local Inuit¹ people, and he went fishing with them. As soon as one of them
caught a fish, it quickly froze because the air was so cold. He asked them, "Are
15 we going to eat this fish today?" The Inuit replied, "No, we already have fish
for one month." Birdseye didn't understand. How could fish stay for a month
and not go bad? Later, when he ate the frozen fish, it was as delicious as the
fresh fish. Then he got the idea! When you freeze fish fast enough, it doesn't
change its taste or the way it looks. He tried this new idea on vegetables. He
20 froze cabbage so his family could eat vegetables in the winter.

In 1917, he returned to the United States and took different jobs. In the end,
he worked for a fish company and started to **try out** the quick-freezing method
he learned in Canada. Finally, in 1924, he started a company called Birdseye
Seafoods. It sold frozen foods such as fish, meat, and vegetables. In 1930, he
25 tested the foods in Springfield, Massachusetts. For the first time, shoppers saw
frozen foods in their grocery store. Did they buy them? Yes, they did! And what
a change Birdseye made to the American **diet**, all because of his **curiosity**.

¹**Inuit:** native people who live in the north of Canada, Alaska, Greenland, and
Siberia. These people were called Eskimos before.

Vocabulary

A. Vocabulary in Context

Complete these sentences with the words below.

convenient diet taste
curiosity fur try out
delicious frozen food

1. Today we often have _____ when we cannot have fresh food.
2. In Canada, Birdseye sold the thick hair on animals, or _____, for money.
3. To have frozen food in a package, ready to use whenever you want, is _____.
4. After you cook frozen vegetables, the _____ is like fresh vegetables.
5. The meal had frozen vegetables, but it was good and _____.
6. The American _____ changed because of Birdseye's frozen foods.
7. When Birdseye came back to the United States, he started to _____ what he learned in Canada.
8. Birdseye's _____ made a change to the American way of eating.

Word Partnership		Use diet with:
adj.	balanced diet, healthy diet, proper diet, strict diet	
n.	diet and exercise , diet supplements , diet pills	
prep.	on a diet	

B. Vocabulary in New Context

Answer the questions with complete sentences.

1. Which food is delicious to you?

Example: Chocolate cake with ice cream is delicious to me.

2. What do you usually put on food to give it taste?

3. What machine in your home is the most convenient for you?

4. Do you eat frozen food? If yes, say what frozen food (pizza, peas, fish, etc.)

5. What is a popular food in the American diet?

C. Vocabulary Building

Complete these sentences with the words from the box.

convenient (*adjective*)

convenience (*noun*)

1. Today many people use a microwave oven for _____.
2. A washing machine at home is _____.

tasty (*adjective*)

taste (*verb*)

3. I have a cold so I can't _____ anything.
4. This soup is good. It's _____.

curious (*adjective*)

curiosity (*noun*)

5. My brother has a _____ about machines and how they work.
6. My grandmother is always _____ about what her neighbors are doing.

Reading Comprehension

A. Looking for the Main Ideas

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. Birdseye always loved _____.
 - a. animals and nature
 - b. fishing
 - c. money
2. Birdseye got the idea of frozen food _____.
 - a. because it was cold in Canada
 - b. from the Inuit in Canada
 - c. from frozen cabbages
3. Birdseye changed _____.
 - a. the taste of American food
 - b. American frozen foods
 - c. the American way of eating

B. Looking for Details

Circle **T** if the sentence is true. Circle **F** if the sentence is false.

- | | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| 1. Clarence Birdseye studied biology in college. | T | F |
| 2. Birdseye liked Canada. | T | F |
| 3. Birdseye had eight children. | T | F |
| 4. Birdseye went fishing with the Inuit. | T | F |
| 5. Birdseye had a company called Birdseye Frozen Foods. | T | F |
| 6. Shoppers saw frozen foods for the first time in 1924. | T | F |

Discussion Questions

Discuss the answers to these questions with your classmates.

1. How did Birdseye's invention change the American diet and lifestyle? Name some changes.
2. What other inventions have changed the way we eat in the modern world?
3. What changes in food, diet, and eating habits do you think we'll see in the future?

Critical Thinking Questions

Discuss the answers to these questions with your classmates.

1. What are some of the good points and bad points of fast food and frozen meals?
2. Do you think people in America eat healthy food? What is your idea of healthy food?

Writing Skills

A. Comparing Things with **as . . . as**

When you compare two things that are the same, use:

as + adjective + as

Examples:

Frozen vegetables can be **as tasty as** fresh vegetables.

Frozen pizzas are **as big as** fresh pizzas.

For the negative form, use:

not as + adjective + as

Examples:

A microwave is **not as big as** a refrigerator.

Frozen peas are **not as expensive as** fresh peas.

B. Exercises

1. Make sentences with the words below and a form of the verb *to be*.

When you see the = symbol, use **as . . . as**.

When you see the < symbol, use **not as . . . as**.

1. Frozen peas = fresh peas (tasty)

Example: Frozen peas are as tasty as fresh peas.

2. fast food < fresh food (healthy)

3. fresh food < fast food (popular)

4. fast food < fresh food (expensive)

5. frozen dessert = fresh dessert (good)

6. frozen fish = fresh fish (well-liked)

2. Work alone, with a partner, or in a group. Make sentences with the comparative. Use **as . . . as**, **-er . . . than**, or **more . . . than**.

1. a refrigerator/a microwave oven (big)

2. a refrigerator/a microwave oven (expensive)

3. a microwave oven/a freezer (important)

3. Find the mistakes. There are 10 mistakes in grammar and capitalization. Find and correct them.

We often called a refrigerator a "fridge." She is a very convenience appliance in our homes. The Refrigerator for the home start around 1850. Before the refrigerator, people used ices to keep food cool. They bought ices and put the ices in Iceboxes. They like their iceboxes, and didn't want to buy refrigerators!

Writing Practice

A. Write Sentences

Answer these questions with complete sentences.

1. Do you think the microwave is a convenient invention?

2. Do you think many modern homes have one?

3. What kinds of foods do you use a microwave oven for?

4. How is this invention better than a normal oven?

5. Do you or someone you know use a microwave oven?

6. Do you think more people will have a microwave in their kitchen?

B. Rewrite in Paragraph Form

Rewrite your sentences in the form of a paragraph. Then use the paragraph checklist to check your work.

Paragraph Checklist

- Did you indent the first line?
- Did you give your paragraph a title?
- Did you write the title with a capital letter or letters?
- Did you put the title in the center at the top of the page?
- Did you write on every other line?

C. Edit Your Paragraph

Work with a partner or your teacher to edit your sentences. Correct spelling, punctuation, vocabulary, and grammar. Use the editing checklist to help you.

Editing Checklist

- Subject in every sentence?
- Verb in every sentence?
- Words in correct order?
- Sentences begin with a capital letter?
- Sentences end with a period directly at the end of a sentence?
- Sentences have a space between them?
- Commas in the correct place?
- Wrong words?
- Spelling?
- Missing words (use insertion mark: ^)?

D. Write Your Final Copy

After you edit your paragraph, you can write the final copy.

Chapter

12 A Sharp Idea from King Gillette



Pre-Reading

Discuss the answers to these questions with your classmates.

1. What kind of razors do you see in the photos?
2. What type of razor do you like?
3. Why do you like this type of razor?

Key Vocabulary

Do you know these words? Match the words or phrases with the meanings.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. blade _____ | a. something you use and then throw away |
| 2. disposable _____ | b. persuaded someone to do something |
| 3. dull _____ | c. the cutting part of a knife or razor |
| 4. encouraged _____ | d. something that is created for the first time; a discovery |
| 5. household name _____ | e. not sharp |
| 6. invention _____ | f. to make sharp so it cuts easily |
| 7. product _____ | g. something that is famous or known by many people |
| 8. sharpen _____ | h. something made to be sold; merchandise |



Track 12

A Sharp Idea from King Gillette

1 **A** salesman named King Camp Gillette invented a **disposable** razor. His **invention** became a **household name**. It changed the way people shave all over the world to this day.

5 King Camp Gillette was born in a small town in the state of Wisconsin in the USA. When he was young, the family moved to Chicago. The family worked hard. His father worked at various inventions. Gillette always liked the idea of inventing something, too. At 18, he left school and worked as a salesman.

10 By age 40, Gillette was still a salesman. Both his parents were more successful than he was. His mother published the famous *White House Cookbook*, and his father had his own few inventions. The younger Gillette worked hard and also wanted to be an inventor. The president of the company he worked for **encouraged** him. He told him to invent something people could use and throw away. Gillette often thought about this.

15 One day when he was ready to shave, his razor was too **dull**. It didn't cut. He thought, "I just spend so much time sharpening this **blade**. Then when I **sharpen** it, it's too sharp and I cut myself." He decided, "I'll make a razor with a safe, removable blade. When the blade is dull, you can throw it away and buy another blade."

20 Gillette started to work on this idea. Another inventor named William Emery Nickerson helped him. They became partners. Five years later, they started a company called the American Safety Razor Company. A year later, Gillette renamed the company to Gillette Safety Razor Company. In 1903, he sold 51 razors and 68 blades. The next year he sold 90,884 razors and 123,648
25 blades. This was because Gillette had a good product and a good idea. He knew how to advertise. He gave away razors for free to sell more blades. Other companies tried to copy his **product**, but Gillette became the most popular company. By age 55, Gillette was a millionaire. He was famous, too, because his picture was on every package of razor blades. People all over the world

- 30 asked for razors with the picture of a man on them. Gillette once said, “In my travels, I have found it in the most northern town of Norway and in the heart of the Sahara Desert.” Sadly, in 1926, the stock market crashed¹ and Gillette lost all his money.

¹**stock market crashed:** people lost all the money they had in stocks and shares in the stock market

Vocabulary

A. Vocabulary in Context

Complete these sentences with the words and phrases below.

blade	encouraged	product
disposable	household name	sharpen
dull	invention	

1. Everybody knows the name Gillette. It is a _____.
2. When a knife or razor doesn't cut, it is _____.
3. The part of a knife or razor that cuts is the _____.
4. Gillette's _____ changed the way people shave.
5. The president of the company Gillette worked for _____ him to invent.
6. Gillette invented a _____ razor, or a razor you can throw away.
7. Gillette's new _____ did not sell well the first year.
8. With the old razors, you had to _____ the blade when it didn't cut anymore.

B. Vocabulary in New Context

Answer the questions with complete sentences.

1. What is a disposable product?

Example: Paper tissues like Kleenex are disposable.

2. What is a household name?

3. Knives and razors have blades. What else has a blade or blades?

4. What is something you sharpen?

5. What product do you buy to wash your hair?

6. What is the invention you use the most?

C. Vocabulary Building

Complete these sentences with the words from the box.

invent (*verb*)

invention (*noun*)

- Alexander Graham Bell had the idea to _____ the telephone.
- The _____ of electricity has changed our lives.

encourage (*verb*)

encouragement (*noun*)

- I always _____ her to continue with her studies and finish medical school.
- We know it is difficult, so we give him a lot of _____ to continue.

produce (*verb*)

product (*noun*)

5. There is always a new electronic _____ on the market.
6. The company has started to _____ a very light and cheap razor now.

Reading Comprehension

A. Looking for the Main Ideas

Answer the questions with complete sentences.

1. When Gillette was a salesman, what did he really want to do?

2. What kind of razor did Gillette want to make?

3. Why did Gillette sell so many razors?

B. Looking for Details

One word in each sentence is not correct. Rewrite the sentences with the correct word.

1. At 18, he left school and worked as a writer.

2. The company president told Gillette to invent something people could use and put away.

3. One day when he was ready to shave, his razor was too sharp.

4. King Gillette and William Nickerson started a company called the Gillette Safety Razor Company.

5. Gillette gave away blades for free.

6. He was famous because his name was on every package of razor blades.

Discussion Questions

Discuss the answers to these questions with your classmates.

1. Who are some of the greatest inventors in history?
2. Name three great inventions of the 20th century. How did they change our lives?
3. If you could invent something, what would it be? How would your invention make life better or easier?

Critical Thinking Questions

Discuss the answers to these questions with your classmates.

1. What are some disposable products that you use? How do they make your life easier? What are some problems caused by disposable products? Do you think we should have more or less disposable products in the future?
2. Gillette knew how to advertise. Today there are advertisements almost everywhere we look. What forms of advertising do we have today? Do you think there are too many advertisements in our daily lives? What are some of the good and bad points about the amount of advertisements in our lives today?

Writing Skills

A. Using *too* and *very*

Using *too* or *very* + Adjective

Very goes before an adjective. It emphasizes the adjective. It has a positive meaning.

Example:

Gillette had a **very** good idea.

You must not confuse **very** with **too**. When **too** goes before an adjective, it gives the idea of “more than necessary.” **Too** has a negative meaning.

Examples:

That razor is **too** sharp. (I don't like it.)

That razor is **very** sharp. (I like it.)

Two Meanings of *too*

Too changes its meaning with the position it has in a sentence. Before an adjective, it has a negative meaning.

Example:

This electric razor is **too** noisy. (I don't like it.)

At the end of an affirmative sentence, **too** means “also.”

Example:

An electric razor is heavy, **too**. (It is heavy also.)

Note: You should use a comma before **too** when it means “also.”

B. Exercises

1. Complete these sentences with **too** or **very**.

1. This razor is _____ good. I like it.
2. I don't like this razor. It's _____ expensive for me.
3. He likes a strong aftershave. This is _____ weak for him.
4. After he showers and shaves, he looks _____ clean.
5. This aftershave is _____ expensive. I can never buy it.
6. I like electric razors. They are _____ convenient.

2. Rewrite the second sentence in each pair, using **too** in the correct place.

1. I don't like this aftershave. It is stronger than necessary.

Example: It is too strong.

2. That aftershave is expensive. It also has a strong smell.

3. That toothpaste is good for your teeth. It also makes teeth whiter.

4. I didn't buy that toothbrush. It is more expensive than necessary.

5. This shampoo makes my hair soft. It also makes my hair shiny.

6. I don't use that shampoo. It has more chemicals than necessary.

3. Find the mistakes. There are 10 mistakes in grammar and capitalization. Find and correct them.

The Chinese invent toothbrushes. This toothbrushes had animal hair because there was no nylons at that time. In 1938, people started to use nylon toothbrushes. Today we can buy much types and colors of toothbrushes. But in some african and south american country, people still use Tree branches to care for their tooth.

Writing Practice

A. Write Sentences

Answer these questions with complete sentences.

1. Do you think the toothbrush is a good invention?

2. Do you prefer a regular or an electric toothbrush?

3. Do you use a toothbrush with soft or hard bristles?

4. How often do you buy a new toothbrush or replace the brush of the electric toothbrush?

5. Why do you like or do not like an electric toothbrush? (For example, it cleans your teeth better, or it is heavy and not convenient.)

6. Do you like the idea of a disposable toothbrush? Why or why not?

B. Rewrite in Paragraph Form

Rewrite your sentences in the form of a paragraph. Then use the paragraph checklist to check your work.

Paragraph Checklist

- Did you indent the first line?
- Did you give your paragraph a title?
- Did you write the title with a capital letter or letters?
- Did you put the title in the center at the top of the page?
- Did you write on every other line?

C. Edit Your Paragraph

Work with a partner or your teacher to edit your sentences. Correct spelling, punctuation, vocabulary, and grammar. Use the editing checklist to help you.

Editing Checklist

- Subject in every sentence?
- Verb in every sentence?
- Words in correct order?
- Sentences begin with a capital letter?
- Sentences end with a period directly at the end of a sentence?
- Sentences have a space between them?
- Commas in the correct place?
- Wrong words?
- Spelling?
- Missing words (use insertion mark: ^)?

D. Write Your Final Copy

After you edit your paragraph, you can write the final copy.

Weaving It Together

Timed Writing

Answer these questions with complete sentences. Use capital letters and periods where necessary. You have 50 minutes to answer the questions and rewrite them into paragraph form.

1. Why do you think the cell phone is a good invention?
2. How is it better than the old phone with a cord?
3. For what can you use a cell phone? (phone/texting/photos/e-mail/social networking, etc.)
4. How often do you use your cell phone?
5. Do you think some people use their cell phones in places they should not? Give an example.
6. How does the cell phone help you and make your life better?

Connecting to the Internet

- A.** Use the Internet to research these products. Find out who invented each product and in what year.
- microwave oven
 - pop-up toaster
 - gas stove
 - can opener
 - electric blender
- B.** Jacob Schick invented the first electric razor. Look up Schick on the Internet. Find the answers to the following questions:
- Where and when was Schick born?
 - What made Schick want to invent an electric razor?
 - How and when did Schick invent the electric razor?
 - What company did Schick form to sell his invention?

What Do You Think Now?

Refer to page 119 at the beginning of this unit. Do you know the answers now? Complete the sentence, or circle the best answer.

1. People saw frozen food in packages for the first time in _____.
2. People liked/didn't like frozen food in packages at first.
3. Birdseye is/is not the name of the person who started a company.
4. Gillette invented a _____ that you could throw away.
5. Gillette had his _____ on every package of razors.