

'Spinners, Matches and Karaoke' Answers

1. What gadgets are listed in first paragraph? List three.

Students might list Pokémon cards, Beanie Babies and Loom Bands. They might also count fidget or finger spinners here.

2. Who invented the 'fidget spinner'? When?

Catherine Hettinger invented the device in the early 1990s and patented it in 1997.

3. What toy company was originally interested in producing the 'spinner'?

Hasbro

4. List two things Hettinger has stated about her invention.

Students might list the fact that she isn't angry about the patent, that she is glad that someone is using her device, that inventions often don't make money or that she couldn't afford to update the patent for the device in 2005. Students might also remember that she said only 3% of inventions make money for the inventor.

5. How did the invention of the match happen?

It was an accident. John Walker was experimenting with lighting (fire starting) materials and a splint of wood, covered in the mixture, struck the fireplace and ignited.

6. Why do we call ballpoint pens 'biros'?

Laszlo Biro was the original inventor and first person to hold the patent for the ballpoint pen.

7. State two things you learn about karaoke from the article.

Students may choose from the name of the man who invented it: Daisuke Inoue or the fact that his band originally played live to audiences who then sang the lyrics. They may talk about the fact that it is a multi-billion-dollar industry, that Inoue sees no profit from his invention or the fact that karaoke means 'empty orchestra'.

8. State two facts you know about the 'smiley face' design.

It was designed in 1963 by Harvey Ball for an advertising company. He received \$45 for his design but 50 million pins had been created within a decade of his design appearing.

9. Who is Tim Berners-Lee and what is he famous for?

Sir Tim Berners-Lee is the inventor of the internet – he and a team created the first web server, first website and webpages in 1991 from an idea he had in 1987.

10. Where does the word patent come from?

From the Latin verb patere, meaning 'to lay open'. This refers to patents requiring that the inventor shows the true working of the invention when applying for exclusive rights.