

'Spinners, Matches and Karaoke'

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

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

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

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

5. How did the invention of the match happen?

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

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

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

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

10. Where does the word patent come from?

Extension

Research one of the most successful inventors of all time. You might look at Thomas Edison, Leonardo da Vinci, the Wright brothers or James Dyson, inventor of the Dyson vacuum cleaner. What is the story of the invention? What kinds of challenges did the inventor face in bringing their invention to completion?

Imagine that you have invented something of your own. It might be something that would help the third world, provide entertainment or make student life easier. Write a three to four-page story in which you describe the inventing and marketing of your device. What happens when you try to sell it?

Find out more about the criticism around patent law. What are the pros and cons of having patents? Why do some people believe (as Tim Berners-Lee did about the internet) that some ideas should simply be for everyone? Write an opinion piece in which you decide on your side in the issue.