

15. Great Inventions

The good ideas of brilliant people can change the world. Civilization itself is the progressive accumulations of novel notions. But sometimes we overlook the simple inventions of everyday life, because we take them for granted. Electricity, for example-can you imagine a world without electricity? The electric light alone, in effect, has prolonged our very lives by giving us so many hours of added activity. Or simply an inventions and creativity like knitting or even stitching, which has saved more lives than medicine has done. Simple eyeglasses have opened worlds of knowledge and entertainment to the nearly blind, allowing them to lead full, active lives.

Comprehension

1. Define civilization, if you can.
2. In what sense has the electric light added years to our life span?
3. How has knitting saved lives and how it help in the livelihood of most people?

Your opinion

1. What invention is most needed at the moment?
2. Is there ever going to be a pill/medicine we can take to delay aging?
3. Is a "time machine" possible, do you think? If it were to be technically feasible to go back in time, what would be the danger of doing so?
4. Have you ever tried to invent something? How about redesigning some process to make it more efficient or safer?
5. Is there a difference between inventions and creativity? If so, please state.
6. What would happen if creative thought were to end?