



# Everyday Things That Were Invented by Accident

## A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

1. Do you know something that was invented by accident?
2. Have you ever made a mistake that turned out well?
3. What everyday item do you use the most?
4. Do you think accidents can be good sometimes?
5. If you could invent something, what would it be?

## B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

Match the words with their meanings. Check again after reading on page 2.

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| ___ 1. accident   | a) something used to make sick people better |
| ___ 2. discover   | b) to make something new                     |
| ___ 3. melt       | c) a person who studies science              |
| ___ 4. scientist  | d) to turn from solid to liquid              |
| ___ 5. sticky     | e) able to stick to things                   |
| ___ 6. medicine   | f) something that happens by chance          |
| ___ 7. laboratory | g) something that is wrong or not planned    |
| ___ 8. mistake    | h) a substance used to stick things together |
| ___ 9. glue       | i) a place where scientists work             |
| ___ 10. create    | j) to find something for the first time      |



## READING

1. Many things we use every day were not planned. For example, in 1928, a scientist named Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin by accident. He left a dish in his laboratory and found that a type of mold killed bacteria. This mistake changed medicine forever.

2. Chocolate chip cookies were also a happy accident. In 1938, Ruth Wakefield tried to make chocolate cookies, but the chocolate pieces did not melt. Instead, they stayed soft inside the cookies. People loved them, and the recipe became famous.

3. Sticky notes were created when a scientist made a glue that was not very strong. It could stick paper together but was easy to remove. Later, someone used it to make small yellow notes we know today. Sometimes, accidents can lead to great ideas.

## COMPREHENSION

1. Who discovered penicillin?
2. What was special about the mold in the laboratory?
3. Who invented chocolate chip cookies?
4. Why didn't the chocolate pieces melt?
5. What was special about the glue in sticky notes?

## VOCABULARY REVIEW

Complete the sentences

1. Penicillin was found by \_\_\_\_\_.
2. She didn't plan to make cookies like that; it was an \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The ice will \_\_\_\_\_ if you leave it in the sun.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ works in a big laboratory.
5. Tape is \_\_\_\_\_ on one side.
6. This \_\_\_\_\_ helps people with headaches.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ is full of test tubes and machines.
8. He made a \_\_\_\_\_ when he added salt instead of sugar.
9. We need strong \_\_\_\_\_ to fix this chair.
10. She wants to \_\_\_\_\_ a new kind of phone app.

## GRAMMAR REVIEW – PAST SIMPLE

Complete the sentences with the correct past simple form of the verb in brackets.

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ (find) an old photo in the box.
2. We \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the museum last weekend.
3. She \_\_\_\_\_ (make) a delicious cake for the party.
4. They \_\_\_\_\_ (not see) the new movie.
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) my grandmother yesterday.
6. The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (give) us homework.
7. We \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a picnic in the park.
8. He \_\_\_\_\_ (break) his phone by accident.
9. I \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a book about inventions.
10. She \_\_\_\_\_ (not eat) breakfast this morning.

## DISCUSSION

1. Which of these inventions do you like the most? Why?
2. Do you think accidents will make new inventions in the future?