



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Inventions
发明

Inventions 发明

A British Library Exhibition Celebrates Innovation 大英图书馆庆祝创新发明

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

Have you ever thought of inventing something that could make everyday chores easier? Sam Houghton did and he created a **double-headed broom**.

Sam was just three years old when he came up with his idea. He was watching his father sweep up garden leaves and alternate between two brushes while trying to gather large leaves and fine debris.

Now he is the **poster boy** for a new exhibition at the British Library in London called 'Inventing the 21st Century'.

To celebrate innovation and inspire budding entrepreneurs, the famous library is telling the story behind 15 of what it considers the most ingenious inventions to come out of Britain in the past 10 years. Sam's broom is surrounded by products developed by big companies, like a high-tech swimsuit by Speedo that became popular at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and a bladeless fan by Britain's Dyson.

Every year the UK generates over 25,000 patents, trademarks and design rights for new products and services. Many of the inventors have to **jump through lots of hoops** before they can see their product on the market.

Richard Thorpe, creator of an innovative folding electric bike, says that it took him seven years to go from concept to sales. He explains he had to keep quiet about his idea until it was patented.

"When it comes to innovation and selling an idea **confidentiality is key**", he warns. "Whenever you are having a meeting with anyone, always have it in a context that this is confidential information and anything said is not in the **public domain**."

Britain is known for **nurturing** its entrepreneurial spirit ever since the days of the Industrial Revolution with James Watt, Thomas Savery and Thomas Newcomen and their work on the steam engine.

And young Sam Houghton is true to this tradition. He is now eight years old and has more inventions in the pipeline.

"I've made a **balloon popping machine** for play centres", he explains. "After little children's parties we don't want them to cry because of big bangs of balloons."

He said that he "took away the bangs" by creating a box where the balloons can **burst** without frightening children.

Glossary 词汇表

double-headed broom 双头扫帚	came up with 提出
sweep up 清扫	alternate 交替
debris 碎片	poster boy 宣传画上的男孩
innovation 创新产品	budding entrepreneurs 初露头角的企业家
ingenious 有独创性的	high-tech 高科技
patents 专利	trademarks 商标
jump through hoops 越过层层关卡	concept 概念
confidentiality 保密	in the public domain 公共领域
nurturing 扶植	in the pipeline 在酝酿中
popping 冲破（气球）	burst 爆破

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. Sam was five years old when he thought of the idea for a double-headed broom. True / False
2. Sam's invention is in an old exhibition at the British Library in London. True / False
3. Many big companies have their products in the exhibition. True / False
4. It can be difficult for inventors to get their product onto the market. True/ False
5. Sam already has another invention which can be found in shops. True / False

2. Jump Idioms 跳跃成语

In the article the idiom 'jump through hoops' was used, meaning you have to do a lot of difficult things before you get what you want.

在课文里有'jump through hoops' 这个成语，其意思是“ 越过层层关卡” 。

Below are more idioms that use the word jump. Match each idiom with their definition.

下面是更多的类似成语，它们都多少含有“ 跳跃” 的意思。请你把这些成语和定义相搭配。

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. jump on the bandwagon | a. form an opinion too soon on something or someone before knowing all the facts. |
| 2. jump to conclusions | b. this is to tell someone to do something quickly |
| 3. jump the gun | c. do the same as other people are doing |
| 4. jump in at the deep end | d. start doing something new and difficult without help or preparation |
| 5. jump to it | e. start something too quickly, or react too early |

Now complete the sentences below with the correct idiom

请用上面表格中的成语来完成下列句子。

1. You are always _____ about people! Give this guy a chance!
2. I really _____ with this new project but I am learning a lot.
3. I hate when people _____. It's better to be an individual.
4. You'd better _____! The teacher will be arriving any minute.
5. I think you walked out of that film too early, it got much better! I think you _____ a bit on that one.

3. Onomatopoeia 象声词

In this week's article the word 'bang' was used which is an onomatopoeic word.

在本文里我们使用了'bang' 这个象声词。

a) Match these other onomatopoeic words to their Chinese definitions.
请把以下英语象声词和其对应的汉语连线（试着根据英语读音猜汉语意思）。

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1. creak | a. （汽水）嘶嘶地响 |
| 2. knock | b. 吱吱嘎嘎声 |
| 3. fizz | c. 咔哒一声响 |
| 4. splash | d. （水）溅波声 |
| 5. click | e. 敲击声 |

b) Now complete the sentences below with the appropriate onomatopoeic word. Please note that onomatopoeia in English can also take verb forms.

现在请你用正确的象声词来做句子填空练习。请注意在英语里象声词也可以有动词形式。

1. Those floorboards are always _____.
2. Did you hear a _____ at the door?
3. When I fell in the swimming pool there was a big _____.
4. I could hear _____ when I put some ice cubes into my drink.
5. I can hear my knees _____! I must be getting old!

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with this week's article in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与本课文有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

i	n	v	e	n	t	i	o	n	a	c	e
e	r	f	w	e	y	z	q	i	o	h	a
b	t	g	m	u	s	e	u	m	e	o	a
e	a	f	u	t	a	i	r	e	i	r	p
b	s	l	o	p	f	s	i	s	a	e	a
r	u	t	l	w	g	r	w	e	i	s	t
o	d	b	e	o	h	i	y	e	f	o	e
o	w	a	e	r	o	i	a	u	e	p	n
m	o	n	a	d	i	n	u	n	h	p	t
b	e	g	r	o	u	e	b	a	f	r	b
s	a	f	g	d	d	e	s	i	g	n	i
b	r	p	r	o	d	u	c	t	u	c	w

invention	chores	broom	museum
	product		
balloon	bang	sweep	patent design

Answers 答案

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

- Sam was five years old when he thought of the idea for a double-headed broom. **False**
- Sam's invention is in an old exhibition at the British Library in London. **False**
- Many big companies have their products in the exhibition. **True**
- It can be difficult for inventors to get their product onto the market. **True**
- Sam already has another invention which can be found in shops. **False**

3. Onomatopoeia 象声词

- b
- e
- a
- d
- c

- Those floorboards are always **creaking**.
- Did you hear a **knock** at the door?
- When I fell in the swimming pool there was a big **splash**.
- I could hear **fizzing** when I put some ice cubes into my drink.
- I can hear my knees **clicking**! I must be getting old!

2. Jump Idioms 跳跃成语

- c
- a
- e
- d
- b

- You are always **jumping to conclusions** about people! Give this guy a chance!
- I really **jumped in at the deep end** with this new project but I am learning a lot.
- I hate when people **jump on the bandwagon**. It's better to be an individual.
- You'd better **jump to it!** The teacher will be arriving any minute.
- I think you walked out of that film too early, it got much better! I think you **jumped the gun** a bit on that one.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

i	n	v	e	n	t	i	o	n		c	
										h	
b			m	u	s	e	u	m		o	
	a									r	p
b		l				s				e	a
r			l				w			s	t
o		b		o				e			e
o		a			o				e		n
m		n				n				p	t
		g									
					d	e	s	i	g	n	
		p	r	o	d	u	c	t			