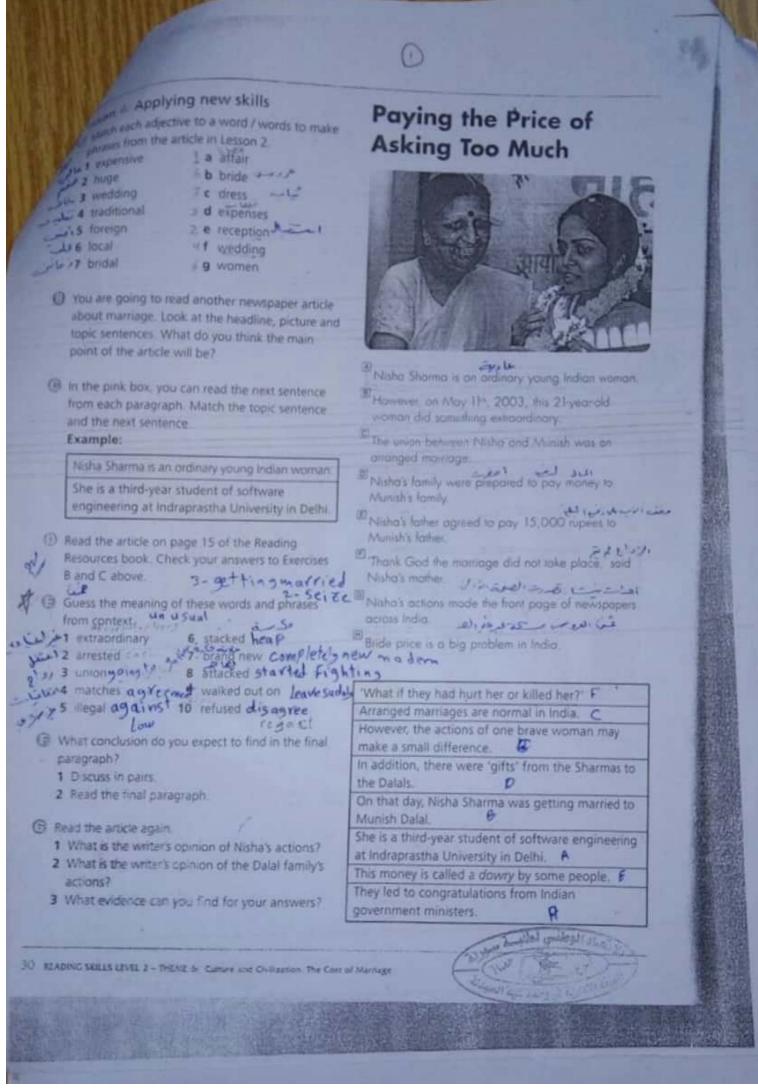
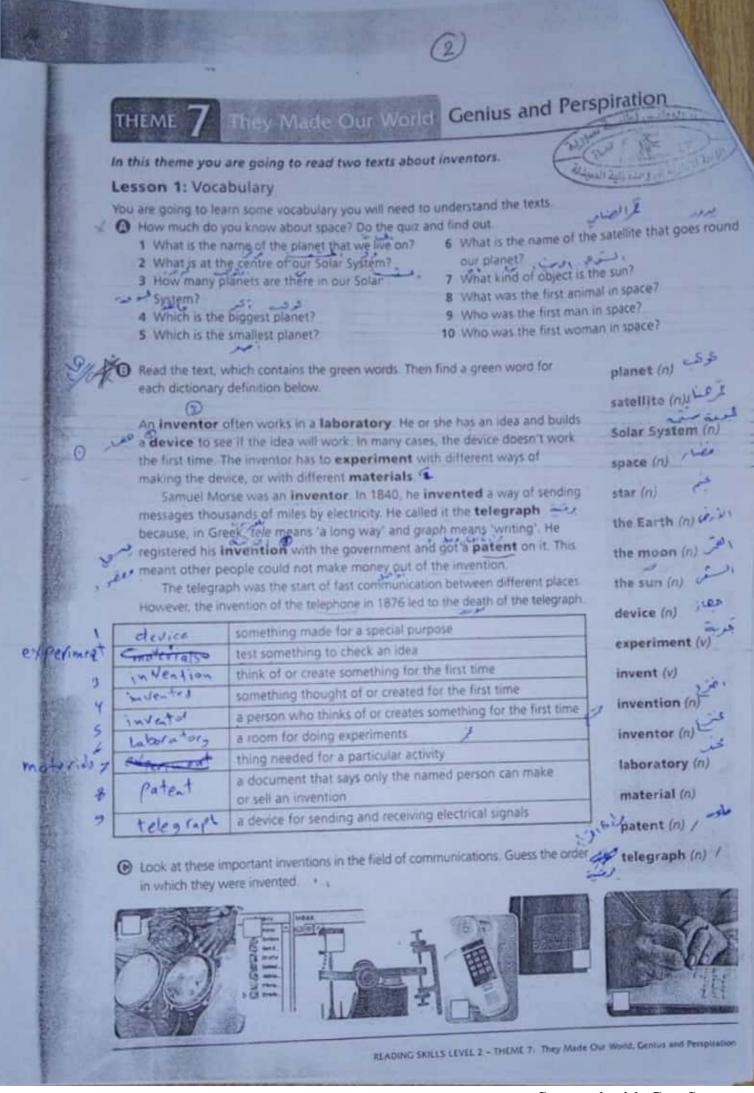


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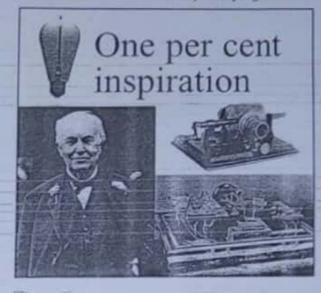
esson 2: Reading

- Read this part of a short poem by an English poet. Explain it in your own words.
- You are doing some research into the work of famous inventors in the field of communications. Make a list of research questions about an inventor and his inventions. (Remember the serving-men from Kipling's poem.)
- You are going to read an article about an inventor.

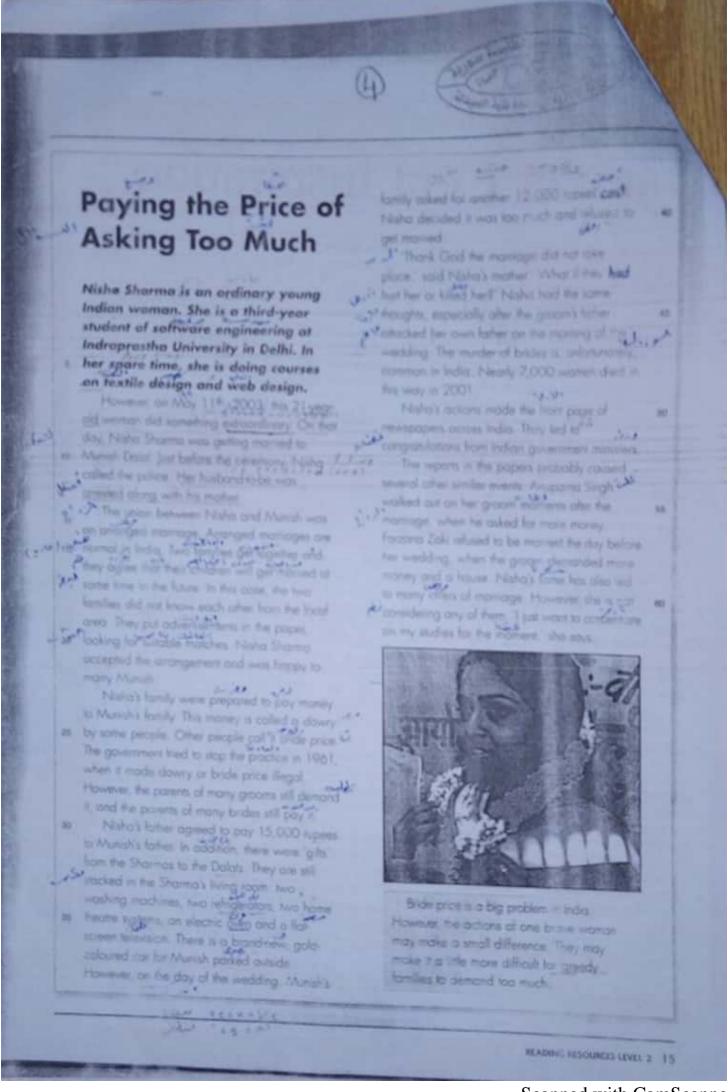
 Some people call him the greatest inventor of all time.
 - 1 Look at the title. Check the meaning of inspiration in a dictionary. What do you think the other 99% is?
 - 2 Look at the pictures. Can you guess what any of the inventions are?
 - 3 Look at the first paragraph. Do you know what he invented?
 - 4 Look at the topic sentences. In which paragraph do you expect to find an answer to each of your research questions (Exercise 8)? Explain your choice.
 - Read the article on page 16 of the Reading Resources book.
 - Make notes of the answers to your research questions in Exercise B.
 - 2 Check your answers to the questions in Exercise C.
 - These statements are probably true. Find evidence in the text.
 - 1 Edison's mother taught him to read.
 - 2 Hereditary means something you get from your parents.
 - 3 The telegraph was used on the railway system.
 - 4 Edison knew people wanted the Stock Exchange device before he made it.
 - 5 Edison stopped working as a telegrapher in 1870.
 - 6 A tape recorder is a kind of phonograph.
 - 7 Before Edison, people made light bulbs with different materials.
 - 8 A digital movie camera is a kind of kinetograph.

I keep six honest serving-men (They taught me all I know). Their names are What and Where and When And Why and Who and How.

Rudyard Kipling



- Thomas Alva Edison was born in Ohio, USA, on February 11, 1847. He moved with his family to Michigan when he was seven. Even then, there was an indication of his future life. 'He spent most of his time in the cellar,' his father told reporters later. 'He had a laboratory down there.'
- Around 1855, Edison went to school for a short
- At about the age of 12, Edison became almost completely deaf.
- In 1862, the teenage Edison saved a little boy from being hit by a train.
- He followed his own advice.
- Edison's favourite invention appeared in 1877.
- Edison went on to work on many more inventions.
- On December 9, 1914, fire destroyed Edison's laboratories.
- Edison died on October 18, 1931.



One Per Cent Inspiration

THOMAS ALVA EDISON was born in Ohio, USA, on February 11, 1847. He moved with his family to Michigan when he was seven. Even then, there was an indication of his future life. He spent most of his time in the cellar, his father told reporters later. 'He had a laboratory down there.'

Around 1855, Edison went to school for a short time. His teachers thought that he was not very clever. He stopped going, and his mother spent some time teaching him at home. Once he could read however, he did most of the teaching himself. Edison felt strongly about education. Most schools at that time, he believed, taught children to memorize facts, it was better, he thought, for children to observe mature and to make things with their hands. The present system, he said, does not encourage original thought or reasoning.

almost completely deaf. He thought it was from an accident, but it was probably an hereditary disease. His father, and later his son, had the same hearing loss. He did not let his disability get in the way of his life, however. Indeed, he once told a group of deaf people: "I prefer the quiet of deafness to the noise of conversation."

In 1862, the teenage Edison saved a little boy from being hit by a train. The boy's father, a stationmaster, thanked him by teaching him how to use the telegraph. Edison learnt well and got a job as a telegraph operator. He travelled thousands of miles, doing the job in railway stations all over America. In 1867, Edison moved to Massachusens to work as a telegrapher. But his first love was inventing things. He registered his first patent the following year. It was for an electrical vote recorder. However, nobody wanted to boy it. Edison said later: I learnt a good lesson then. Only invent things that people want to boy.

He followed his own advice. He made a device for the New York Stock Exchange and

sold it to them in 1870. He wanted \$4,000 for the device. Finally, the manager of the exchange asked him, 'How much do you want?' Edison said, 'Pay me what it's worth.' The manager paid him \$40,000. Edison was now able to work full time as an inventor. He was well-known for working very long hours and making constant improvements to his inventions. He once said, 'Most people miss opportunity because it wears overalls and looks like work.'

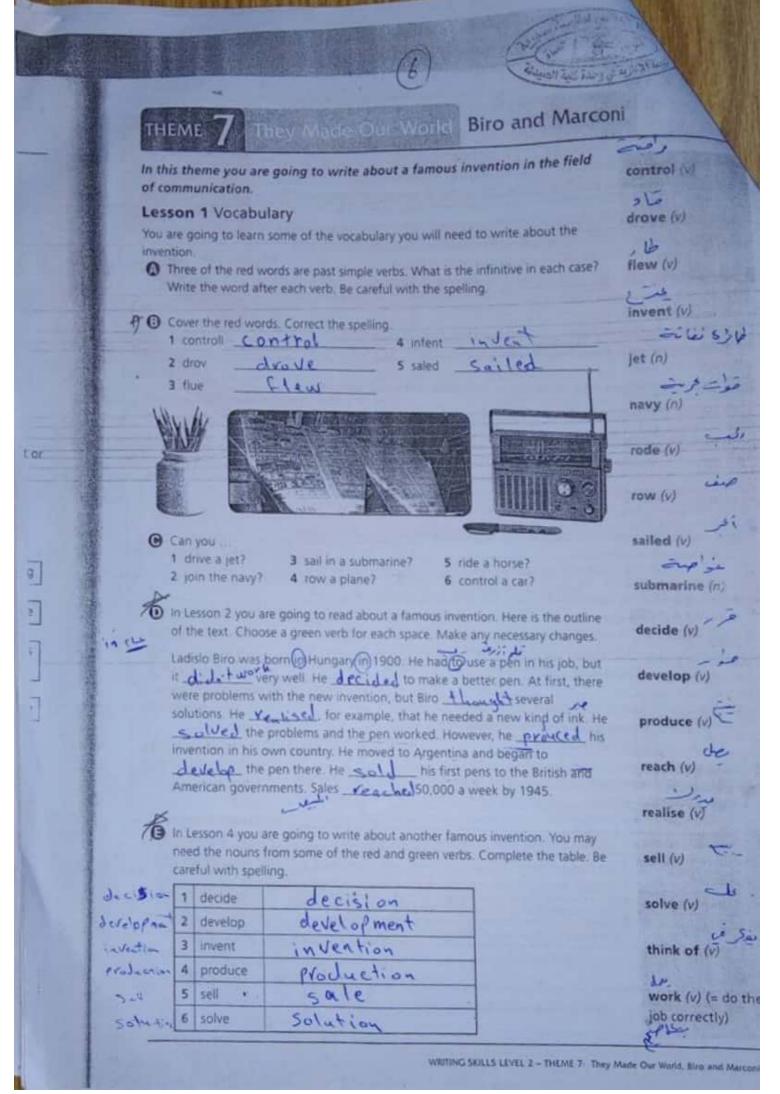
Edison's favourite invention appeared in 1877. He wrapped a piece of fin foil around a cylinder. He connected a microphone and a speaker to the cylinder. He said, 'Mary had a little lamb' into the receiver. The speaker played his words back. He called the device a phonograph. The name comes from two Greek words and literally means 'sound writing'. Today we call it a tape recorder. It is the basis of the whole recorded music industry.

Edison went on to work on many more inventions. Perhaps his most famous is the electric light system. He didn't actually invent the light bulb, but in 1879 he discovered the best material to make it from. He experimented with hundreds of materials before he found the one that really worked. He once said, 'I haven't failed. I have just discovered 10,000 ways that don't work.' In 1888, Edison told reporters, 'I am experimenting with a device which does for the eye what the phonograph does for the ear, which is the recording and reproduction of things in motion.' Edison's kinetograph, or 'movement writing', appeared in 1891. It was the start of the motion picture industry, or the movies.

On December 9, 1914, fire destroyed Edison's laboratories. However, he said, 'I am 67, but I'm not too old to make a fresh start.' Edison rebuilt the laboratories and went back to work.

Edison died on October 18, 1931. Time magazine called him a genius, but during his lifetime he said. 'Genius is one per cent inspiration and ninety-nine per cent perspiration.'

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on 2: Writing

look at the topic sentences opposite. Answer the questions.

- who is the text about?
- 4 What did he invent?
- 2 When was he born?
- 5 When did he invent it?
- 3 What nationality was he?
- 6 Where did he develop his invention?

Topic sentences do not answer all the reader's questions. Look at the underlined words / phrases. Think of questions to find out extra information in each case.

Example:

Biro had to use a <u>fountain pen</u> in his work as a <u>proof-reader</u>

What's a fountain pen? What does a proof-reader do?

- Uncover the other sentences. Find the sentences that continue each paragraph. Find answers to your questions in Exercise 8.
- O Cover the topic sentences. Write a good topic sentence for each paragraph.



Lesson 3: Learning new skills

Explain the meaning of these words. They are all connected with pens.

ballpoint cartridge ink fountain pen nib inkwell smudge

Complete this summary of the invention of the ballpoint pen. Use a preposition or an adverb in each space.

the fountain pen La Ladislo's work. Ladislo decided to make a better pen He thought of several solutions. Biro could not develop his invention in Hungary. In 1940, Ladislo and Georg moved to Argentina. The new pens were an immediate success.

- Look again at the text in Exercise B.
 - 1 What is interesting about all of the sentences?
 - 2 Read the Skills Check and check.

The writer has done more research – see under the text opposite. Decide where to put each extra sentence.

Example:

Admira	
Topic sentence	Ladislo Biro was born in 1900 in Hungary.
Paragraph	He had a number of jobs as a young man – journalist, painter, sculptor.
	He even worked as a hypnotist for a short time.
	He had a brother called Georg, who was a chemist.

Skills Check

on topic

Every paragraph should begin with a topic sentence. This prepares the reader for the content of the paragraph.

The topic sentences together should make a summary of the text.

Always write your topic sentences first. Try to give the main point of the story. Then continue each paragraph to give more information.

³² WEITING SKILLS LEVEL 2 - THEME 7: They Made Out World, Siro and Marconi



Topic sentences	Other sentences in the paragraph
1 Ladislo Biro was born in 1900 in Hungary	A proof-reader checks manuscripts from writers and makes corrections on them. Ladislo used a fountain pen in his work Fountain pens use normal ink, but they carry the ink in a spec cartridge. This means that you do not have to keep dipping to nib into an inkwell.
2 Biro had to use a fountain pen in his work as a proof-reader.	Finally, he decided to put a small ball in the tip of the pen instead of a nib. As the pen moved along the paper, the ball turned. It picked up ink from the ink cartridge and left it on the paper. By 1938, he had a ballpoint pen that worked.
3 However, there were problems with the fountain pen for Ladislo's work	He had a number of jobs as a young man – journalist, painter, sculptor. He had a brother called Georg, who was a chemist.
4 Ladislo decided to make a better pen.	He knew that the ink used in newspaper printing dried quickly. He asked his brother to make a similar ink for a new kind of pen. However, the thicker ink would not flow through a normal nib. Ladislo realised that he needed to invent a new nib.
5 He thought of several solutions	There, in 1943, Biro got money to develop his pen. He registered a patent in the same year.
6 Biro could not develop his invention in Hungary	Sales reached 50,000 a week in 1945. By 1956, they were a quarter of a million a day. Now, more than 15 million biros are sold every day in 160 countries.
7 in 1940, Ladislo and Georg moved to Argentina.	The Second World War was coming, and the Biro brothers had to leave their home country.
The new pens were an immediate success.	Firstly, the ink took a long time to dry, so he had to be careful not to smudge his corrections. Secondly, the pen did not hold very much ink, so he had to keep refilling it.

- a He even worked as a hypnotist for a short time.
- b He made a thick ink like a paste.
- c He sold his first pens to the British and American governments.
- d Lewis Waterman invented the fountain pen in 1884.
- e Many companies now make ballpoint pens, but most people in the English-speaking world call all ballpoint pens biros.
- f The ballpoint pen was not a new idea John Loud invented it in 1888.
- g They wanted to escape the advance of Hitler.