

# Crazy Inventions



## 1. Read the story

Look at the pictures on these pages.  
What is the story about? Now read it.

**EUROPE** <sup>1</sup>People **invent** the craziest things!

<sup>2</sup>An Italian company is selling **soap** that can make you smell like pizza, coffee, or even like **fresh** bread.

<sup>3</sup>In Britain, inventors have developed a **tiny** cell phone that can be put into your tooth. Sometime in the future, your friends will be able to **contact** you on your “phone tooth.” Their voices will travel from your tooth to your ear. **Perfect**—except that you can’t talk back!

<sup>4</sup>Some unusual clothes were invented recently. There’s a \$1,000 “musical **jacket**.” The jacket has an MP3 player\* inside, with all the **controls** sewn onto the arm. <sup>5</sup>“Cool shoes” keep your feet cool. The shoes have a simple machine in the back that

blows cold air onto your feet as you walk. They’re great for the summer **season**.

<sup>6</sup>There are strange inventions for your home, too. “Floating furniture” is filled with a **gas**. These chairs and sofas **float** on the ceiling until you are ready to use them—a great idea for tiny apartments! <sup>7</sup>And finally, there is “home snow.” This small Swiss machine makes snow for your yard **in case** you don’t get any natural snow for New Year’s.

<sup>8</sup>Get ready! Who knows what other wild inventions the twenty-first century will bring?

\*MP3 player: a tiny machine that plays songs

## NEW WORDS

**invention** *n*  
**invent** *v*

**soap** *n*  
**fresh** *adj*

**tiny** *adj*  
**contact** *v*

**perfect** *adj*  
**jacket** *n*

**control** *n*  
**season** *n*

**gas** *n*  
**float** *v*

**in case** *conj*

>> See Glossary on page 96. >>

## 2. Rate the story

How much did you like it? Mark an **X**.





### 3. Check your comprehension

Match the first and second parts of the sentences.

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| a. Some Italian soaps make you smell ____ | 1. cold air onto your feet. |
| b. Inventors have developed ____          | 2. controls on the arm.     |
| c. Cool shoes blow ____                   | 3. snow for your yard.      |
| d. Musical jackets have ____              | 4. a phone tooth.           |
| e. Floating furniture floats ____         | 5. on your ceiling.         |
| f. A Swiss machine makes ____             | 6. like pizza.              |

### 4. Check your vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the New Words.

- An Italian company is selling s\_\_\_\_ that smells like f\_\_\_\_ bread.
- Cool shoes are great for the summer se\_\_\_\_\_.
- All the \_\_\_\_\_rols are sewn into the arm of the musical ja\_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ing furniture is filled with a g\_\_\_\_\_.
- Home snow makes snow for you in the winter in \_\_\_\_\_ you don't get any natural snow.

### 5. Listen to the story track 34

Now listen to the story two or three times. Look at the pictures below as you listen.



### 6. Retell the story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Retell the story using the New Words.

## 7. Answer the questions

### About the story...

- Which Italian soap would you like to use?
- Would you like a phone tooth? Why or why not?
- How do the cool shoes work?
- When you're not using the floating furniture, where does it stay?

### About you...

- Which of these inventions is the most useful, in your opinion?
- Which one would you like to buy? Why?
- Which one would you like to buy for your best friend? Why?
- Do you have an idea for an invention? What is it?

## 8. Learn word partnerships

Study the partnerships below. Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

CONTACT			
contact someone	on	a cell phone	<i>Friends can contact you on your phone tooth.</i>
	by	e-mail phone	<i>I'll contact you by e-mail. He contacted me by phone.</i>
	at	school work home	<i>I'll contact you at school. Contact me at work tomorrow. Can I contact you at home?</i>

- I usually contact \_\_\_\_\_ phone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ often contacts me at \_\_\_\_\_.
- I plan to contact \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.

## 9. Learn word groups

Complete the sentences so they are true for you. Use words from the pictures.

### INVENTIONS



a digital watch



contact lenses



a PDA



an MP3 player



a cell phone



a vacuum cleaner

- I often use \_\_\_\_\_.
- I don't often use \_\_\_\_\_.
- I think the most important invention here is \_\_\_\_\_.



## 10. Take a dictation track 35

Use your own paper to write the dictation. Check your answers on page 87.

## 11. Complete the story

Use the words from the box to complete the story.

cell phones    in case    vacuum cleaners    inventions    perfect    floats    tiny

# A Floating car

LONDON, ENGLAND    Amazing new  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_ are appearing almost  
every day. We are getting smaller and  
smaller (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_ MP3 players. There  
are even robot\* (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that  
clean our floors without human help.

Now there's the Aquada, a British-made  
car that is also a boat. You just touch a  
button and—like magic—it turns into a  
boat. The Aquada has no doors—you have  
to jump into it. It goes fast on the road  
and in the water. You can drive it either in  
a lake or in the ocean.

The makers say that the Aquada is a  
good toy, but it is also (5) \_\_\_\_\_  
for getting to work every day in a city. You  
can ride on the river (6) \_\_\_\_\_  
the roads are busy.

The inventor, Terry Roycroft of New  
Zealand, has dreamed about the car for 15  
years and is delighted that 100 of them  
have finally been made. Are you bored  
with your old car? Do you need a car that  
(7) \_\_\_\_\_? Then perhaps you  
should begin to save your money. The  
Aquada sells for \$240,000!

\* robot: a machine that can work like a person



### Talk about the stories

Which invention from the two stories do you like best? Why? Which one don't you like? Why?