



Lesson 1:

Read the following story about a Great Little Invention and answer the questions:

Most people think that only a genius can invent things. That is most definitely not true! Many of the tools and products we use today in our daily lives, were invented by ordinary people who were driven by need or necessity.

William Addis, a man from London, had an idea that helped him clean his teeth. He took a small bone, made tiny holes in it, then put small broom bristles in the holes. He made a toothbrush. He started using it whenever he wanted to clean his teeth. Soon, he set up a business selling these toothbrushes and made a fortune.

You can be an inventor too. Think about simple things people need or dislike doing. Try to come up with a solution. Your solution might just become a useful invention and you may become a famous inventor!

[Text adapted from: <https://en.islcollective.com/english-esl-worksheets/material-type/reading-comprehension-activities/inventions/12226>]



1. What is the invention that William Addis came up with?

2. Match the following words to their meanings:

a. Fortune	a very smart person
b. Genius	an answer to a problem
c. Solution	normal
d. Ordinary	a lot of money

3. Are the following statements true or false?

a. Only geniuses can invent new things.

b. Many inventions were made by ordinary people who were driven by need or necessity.

4. Choose the correct forms of the verb and the present simple tense.

a. This (am/is/are) a toothbrush. I use it every day and night.

b. These (am/is/are) toothbrushes. We (clean/cleans) our teeth with them twice a day.

c. Toothbrushes (were/was) first made long ago. We still use them!

d. My electrical toothbrush (am/is/are) broken. It (are being/is being) fixed right now.