

Part 1

Around the home



Making life easier

Did you know?



Thomas Edison's first light bulb

Today, it is hard to imagine life without electric lights. Before their invention people had to use candles, oil or gas to light their homes. Candles were expensive, oil lamps were smelly and gas was dangerous.

Many inventors tried to develop a better kind of light. At the end of the 1870s both Joseph Swan and Thomas Edison received patents for the light bulb, which made light that was clean, cheap and safer.

Because it was so new, people sometimes put up a warning: "This room is equipped with Edison Electric Light. Do not attempt to light with match. Simply turn key on wall by the door."

Today, more and more people are using energy-saving light bulbs.



Thomas Edison (1847-1931)

invented many things, including a film camera (with a team at his factory) and an electric pen. He had 1,093 US patents! He often worked 20 hours a day at his own "invention factory".

Environment facts

- Energy-saving light bulbs
- use 80% less electricity
 - last longer

to receive a patent [rɪ'si:v ə ,peɪnt] ein Patent bekommen • light bulb [laɪt bʌlb] Glühlampe • to be equipped with [rɪ'kwɪpt wɪð] mit etw ausgestattet sein • to attempt to [ə'tempt,tə] versuchen • match [mætʃ] Streichholz • simply ['sɪmpli] einfach • energy-saving ['enədʒi,seɪvɪŋ] energiesparend • to last [læst] hier: halten