

# Erasers

## Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

Most people don't think about erasers unless they need to \_\_\_\_\_ something on their paper. Erasers have a long history, but the one on your \_\_\_\_\_ has been around for a short time.

The history of the \_\_\_\_\_ begins in the \_\_\_\_\_.

It starts in South America where people collected water from \_\_\_\_\_ trees. They made many things with it. A man from France \_\_\_\_\_ the area saw this material. He thought it was \_\_\_\_\_, so he sent some to friends in Europe \_\_\_\_\_.

Some of it went to a man \_\_\_\_\_. His name was Edward Nairne. One day, Edward was writing at his table and \_\_\_\_\_ eraser. Instead of using a piece of bread, a popular eraser at the time, he used a piece of \_\_\_\_\_ that was on his table. He was surprised. It worked \_\_\_\_\_ bread. That's when Edward had an idea.

Soon, he was \_\_\_\_\_ rubber erasers. He called them rubbers because of the \_\_\_\_\_. When people erase, they \_\_\_\_\_ paper with an eraser.

How do erasers work? They work like \_\_\_\_\_. When we write on paper, small pieces of graphite \_\_\_\_\_ to paper. Graphite is the black material \_\_\_\_\_ pencils. When you move an eraser on paper, it becomes warm. When it's warm, graphite \_\_\_\_\_ to it and words come off the paper.

Good erasers are hand held. If you want a great \_\_\_\_\_, get an art eraser. It removes the black marks and won't \_\_\_\_\_ the paper.

## Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

- |             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. change   | a. alter        |
| 2. modern   | b. cling        |
| 3. material | c. tear         |
| 4. stick    | d. substance    |
| 5. damage   | e. contemporary |

## True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. Erasers were first developed in the 1700s. T or F
2. The name rubber comes from the rubber tree. T or F
3. Modern erasers were developed by a person from French. T or F
4. Erasers work by removing paper. T or F
5. Pencils are made from graphite. T or F

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## Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

CEOLTDECL \_\_\_\_\_

DREAB \_\_\_\_\_

OADRUN \_\_\_\_\_

MALRTAEI \_\_\_\_\_

ITHREPGA \_\_\_\_\_

EICEP \_\_\_\_\_

## ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

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1. What kind of story is this?
  2. Describe the early erasers. How did they work?
  3. What natural resource was used to produce the first modern eraser?
  4. How do modern erasers remove words from paper?
  5. There are many kinds of erasers. Can you name three?
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## Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. eraser / 1700s / the / of / modern / the / the / begins / history / in

2. we / small / of / paper / stick / paper / write / on / to / graphite / when / pieces

3. things / they / made / with / it / many

4. won't / paper / damage / black / removes / and / the / it / the / marks

5. at / needed / Edward / an / day / and / his / table / writing / one / eraser / was

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