

Potato Chips

Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

People love potato chips. They're one of the world's favorite snacks. How did this _____ vegetable become so popular? The history of the potato chip involves three main _____ .

The first was an American named George Crum. In 1853, he was a chef in a New York _____ restaurant. The resort _____ was French fries. One day, a customer came in, scanned the menu and asked for fries. George made the fries, but the customer was _____. The fries were too thick he said. George quietly returned to the kitchen and _____ again. This time he cut them a little _____ .

The customer _____ at the food on his plate and was not pleased. George went back to the kitchen. He sliced the potatoes as thin _____ . He added lots of salt. The customer loved them. Surprisingly, the hotel became famous for _____ potato chips. Over the next two _____ , potato chips became popular across America. But, there were two _____ .

First, _____ the potatoes. At this time, the skin was removed by hand. That was a time consuming task. In the 1920s, an _____ person invented a machine to remove skins. We do not know who that was, but he or she _____ the food business. Now it was possible to make chips fast. Second, _____ chips fresh and ready for sale. In the 1920s, chips were sold from a glass _____ or large can. The chips _____ broke into small pieces. After a few days, they became soft. These chips could not be _____ .

In 1926, Laura Scudder solved that problem. She made a bag that _____ air from going in or out. She took two pieces of wax paper and _____ them together with an _____. That sealed the bag and blocked air from going in or out. The food stayed _____ for a long time.

The story of potato chips teaches us a lesson. _____ a business does not always require an original product. Sometimes, we can create a new product _____ by putting ideas together in a new way.

Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. dissatisfied | a. examine |
| 2. challenge | b. irritated |
| 3. scan | c. core |
| 4. original | d. obstacle |
| 5. main | e. novel |

True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. The origins of the potato chip involve many people. T or F
2. Thin slices of potatoes were first sold in a hotel. T or F
3. Laura Scudder invented a machine to peel potatoes. T or F
4. The outside of a potato is called a skin. T or F
5. George Crum is the father of the potato chip. T or F

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Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

EELDMT

ADGLCEN

AIIGONRL

IMCGNOSUN

IEYLQTU

LICDSE

ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

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1. Describe this story's setting.
 2. Outline the critical steps that lead to the modern potato chip?
 3. Does serendipity play a role in this story?
 4. How did the teacher respond?
 5. Why do you think the hotel became famous for salty chips?
 6. Describe how people might have consumed potato chips before the Laura's invention.
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Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. that / or / going / made / a / out / prevented / bag / in / air / from / She

2. three / the / of / The / main / individuals / potato / history / chip / involves

3. a / original / an / always / up / business / Starting / require / not / product / does

4. on / the / his / glanced / customer / was / not / pleased / and / food / at / The / plate

5. skins / person / an / a / unknown / 1920s / / machine / the / to / In / remove / invented
