

Post It Notes

Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

Post-It Notes are small _____ of yellow paper with _____ on the back. It looks like a simple product, but it took 12 years to _____ .

The history of Post-It notes begins in _____. Spencer Silver _____ for a company called 3M. He was trying to make glue that could be used to build _____. Instead of strong glue, he made _____ glue.

His weak glue had two _____ features. First, it would stick to any _____ surface. Second, the glue didn't _____ from paper, so it could be reused many times. For years, Spencer searched for a _____ use of this uncommon glue. He failed. Then in _____ , something happened.

Art Fry also worked at 3M. While _____ in a choir, he had a problem. His music book wouldn't stay open. He put paper inside the book to _____ the page, but the paper kept _____ out. He needed something that could stick to paper, but wouldn't _____ the book. That's when he thought about _____ glue.

Back at work, he used the weak glue to make _____ paper. Workers at 3M made some sticky paper and gave it to people _____ the office. They loved it. It was a _____ way to leave messages. In 1980, 3M _____ the sticky paper. To their surprise, people loved it. Today, Post-It note paper is one of the world's best selling _____ products.

The Post-It note story teaches us about _____. Spencer and Art had a unique product with no practical use at first. By _____ the bookmark problem and weak glue, they created a useful product.

We are often told that to be successful in business, we need to find a problem and then _____ a solution. Sometimes we have a solution, but we need to find a _____ .

Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. unusual | a. handy |
| 2. practical | b. distinctive |
| 3. convenient | c. odd |
| 4. unique | d. useful |
| 5. stick | e. attach |

True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. Post It Notes use a special adhesive. T or F
2. It took 14 years to make Post It Notes. T or F
3. Two people invented the special glue. T or F
4. People in the office loved the sticky paper. T or F
5. Post It Notes were first used in a choir. T or F

Post It Notes

Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

SFULEU _____

ESURED _____

ERSISPUR _____

GSORTN _____

VEEONTCINN _____

ELDPVOE _____

ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

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1. What kind of story is this?
 2. What problem lead to the idea of a sticky paper?
 3. What is creatvity?
 4. The last paragraph talks about a solution and then a problem. What does that mean?
 5. Some people find interesting ways to use Post It Notes. Can you think of any examples?
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Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. unusual / glue / two / His / features / weak / had

2. could / be / He / that / was / to / trying / to / used / build / planes / make / glue

3. glue / thought / That's / he / about / when / weak

4. product / first / Art / and / with / practical / no / had / use / unique / a / Spencer / at

5. are / yellow / glue / of / notes / small / back / the / pieces / PostIt / on / paper / with
