

The final examination of English

Computer mouse turns 40



The computer mouse celebrated its 40th anniversary on December the 8th. It was in 1968 that computer visionary Douglas Engelbart showed off his new invention to an audience of 1,000 at a technology conference in California. They witnessed the very first public demonstration of the personal computer. Engelbart's revolutionary 'pointing device' was made of wood and had two wheels built into the bottom. It was originally designed to highlight text on a written document. Engelbart wowed onlookers by demonstrating how text could be selected, copied and pasted. Engelbart said he always wondered why the term 'mouse' never changed into a more technical word after it became a commercial success.

Today computer mice or mouses (both are widely accepted as plurals) are absolutely everywhere. The only real changes to their technology in the past four decades are the transition to laser mice, the right-click button, and the scroll wheel. It looks like mice are here to stay, despite new innovations such as touch screens. Experts say the mouse is still difficult to beat in terms of ease of use and functionality. On the mouse's 40th birthday, computer-device maker Logitech announced it had produced its one-billionth mouse. The Swiss company churns out nearly 8 million mice a month. The pioneer, Douglas Engelbart, has never received a penny for his world-changing invention. His patent ran out before computer companies started mass-producing mice. From Breaking News English.com/11th December,2008

Ex1/The text above is talking about:

- a-A new discovery in geography.
- b-A biography of Douglas Engelbart.
- c-The anniversary of the computer mouse.

Ex2/Say if these statements are (True) or (False) according to the text:

- a-The computer mouse just celebrated its 51st birthday.
- b-Just few people saw the 1st mouse in California conference.
- c-The inventor initially designed the mouse to play computer games.
- d-The mouse's inventor made a fortune from his creation.

Ex3/Complete the following table with the right information from the text:

Invention?	Inventor?	When?	Where?

Ex4/Answer these questions according to the text:

- a-Was the initial design of the mouse made of wood??
- b-Mention the major changes that happened to the mouse in its history?
- c-Why is the mouse still difficult to beat by other new innovation?

Ex5/What or who do the underlined words refer to in the text:

- a-They(\$1)
- b-Pointing device(\$1)
- c-The Swiss company(\$2)

Text exploration:

Ex1/Find in the text words or phrases that are closest in meaning to:

- a-Commemorated(\$1)
- b-Crowd(\$1)
- c-Saw(\$1)

Ex2/Complete the following table:

Verb	Noun	Adjective
	Invention	
		Designed
To develop		

Ex3/Join the following sentences from column(a) with the ones in column (b) using the appropriate connector,making any necessary change:

(A)	Connectors	(B)
1-Ebgebart invented a revolutionary device.	Because	a-It is easy to use & fonctional
2-Experts say that the mouse is still difficult to beat.	Even though	b-He has never received a penny for his invention.

Ex4/Classify these words according to the pronunciation of their final /ed/:

copied - witnessed - designed - celebrated

/t/	/d/	/id/
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Ex5/Complete what (a) says to (b) in the following dialogue:

- A1-.....?
- B1-I think,it was Douglas Engelbart.
- A2-.....?
- B2-It was in December 8th,1968.
- A3-.....?
- B3-It was made of wood & had two wheels built into the bottom.

Written expression: Choose only one topic from the following:

Topic1/ Using the following notes,write a short presentation about TV remote control:

- Today's most commonly used device.
- Gun shaped
- Used light to turn on & off tv/but it used infrared light .
- Adjust the volume
- Change channels.
- Eugene J Polley 1955
- Life would be quite different without it.

Topic2/ Write a short letter to your penfriend in which draw his/her attention to some drawbacks of a certain invention...you may select one of the following:(cell phone - micro wave oven - remote control -the wheel - Mp3.....)

Good luck for all