

Mister Bic

00:03:03	“Hello everyone, and welcome to “The Big Inventors’ Quiz”.
00:03:05	This is today’s mystery guest, Mr. X.
00:03:09	He was 25 years old when he made his invention
00:03:12	Nowadays, you come across his invention in schools, in satchels and on desks. What did this man invent, everyone...if you know, then you’ll have also guessed this mystery person’s name.
00:03:21	<i>“TIP 1: Childhood!”</i>
00:03:23	Mr. X was born in Italy about 90 years ago...
00:03:27	Although his parents were French they often worked abroad. Mr. X moved around a lot.
00:03:32	He went to school in Italy...
00:03:36	in Spain...
00:03:39	and finally in “France.”
00:03:44	<i>“TIP 2 : “Career”</i>
00:03:47	His parents weren’t that well off. He left school when he was 18 and started selling lamps.
00:03:54	After that he worked in a company that made fountain pens.
00:03:59	And then...the Second World War broke out. Mr X joined the Air Force.
00:04:04	He met a lot of American soldiers.
00:04:07	They didn’t use fountain pens; instead they wrote with another sort of pen: A refillable pen with a ball in it!
00:04:15	Mr. X had never seen anything like it.
00:04:18	However, the American ballpoint pens smudged a lot and were very expensive.
00:04:23	There’s got to be another solution, thought Mr. X
00:04:25	<i>“TIP 3 : The Invention”</i>

00:04:28	After the war Mr X started a small company. He experimented with all sorts of ballpoint pens, inks, balls, ink channels, etc.
00:04:39	Finally, after 5 years he came up with a ballpoint pen that didn't smudge!
00:04:45	But he didn't stop there... he made them so cheaply that everyone could buy one.
00:04:50	And when they were empty, they simply bought a new one!
00:04:58 00:05:02	Mr. X named his invention after himself. However ...he changed the name slightly because his name in English had a very nasty meaning....
00:05:09	That's right, everyone, the inventor of the throwaway ballpoint pen is:
00:05:12	<i>Mr. BICH! Bic to his friends!</i>
00:05:15Mr. Bich became very rich. Over 3 billion Bics have been sold worldwide.
00:05:20	He also invented a whole load of other throwaway articles such as razors and lighters.
00:05:25	Mr. Bich died some ten years ago. And yet, every day millions of Bics are sold. Thanks to Mr Bich everyone can write both cheaply and without smudging! Thank you, Mr; BICH!