## 2.089

- 1. Robot. This is a cute robot.
- 2. Electric toothbrush. This is an electric toothbrush.
- 3. Electric shaver. Look at this electric shaver.
- 4. Tablet. Look at that tablet.
- 5. MP3 player. This is a trendy MP3 player.
- 6. Swiss army knife. That's a Swiss army knife.
- 7. Vacuum cleaner. This is a modern vacuum cleaner.
- 8. Voice recorder. That's a voice recorder.
- 9. Cell phone. This is my new cell phone.
- 10. Laser pointer. That's a laser pointer.

## 2.090

1.

Man What gadget did you invent?

Woman I invented a miniature alarm clock.

2.

Man I bet it's not just a clock, right?

**Woman** That's right. It also has an MP3 player built in.

3.

Man What's it for?

Woman It's for waking you up.

4.

Man Who would use it?

**Woman** It's good for people who get up really early.

5.

**Man** Why not just use a regular alarm clock?

Woman This one goes in your ear.

# 2.091

**Yuko** Koji, you have so many gadgets! Where do you get them all?

Koji Oh, I buy them at lots of different stores, but there's a big science fair this weekend. I

bet they'll have a lot of new stuff. It's a chance to see what might be in the stores next

year.

**Yuko** So it's all inventors at this fair?

**Koji** Yes. But anyone can be an inventor. You just need to think of an idea.

**Yuko** And do you have a big idea? Is there a gadget you want to invent?

**Koji** I want to invent a gadget that takes out the trash. I hate taking out the trash.

2.092

**Koji** Look at all this great stuff!

**Yuko** There are a lot of strange gadgets here. I don't know if anyone needs any of them.

**Koji** Well, you never know I mean, look at this one: a robot for walking your dog! It has a

cell phone built in so you can tell the robot when to do it.

**Yuko** Who would use that?

Koji Maybe it's good for people who have to work all day and need someone-or something-

to walk the dog for them. The important thing is that you never know what the next big

idea will be. Look at this one.

**Yuko** Excuse me, what's this?

**Inventor 1** Well, it looks like a pen, doesn't it? But it's really a vacuum cleaner.

Koji Cool!

**Yuko** But it's so small! What is it for?

**Inventor 1** It's for cleaning electronic dictionary keyboards.

**Yuko** Why not just use a regular vacuum cleaner? I don't get it.

**Koji** I think it's a great gadget! Oh, look over here. It looks like a Swiss army knife.

**Yuko** But I bet it's not just a knife, right?

Inventor 2 That's right. It's a knife, but it also has a miniature voice recorder for people who want

to remember an idea when they are cutting things.

**Koji** Can we hear it?

**Inventor 2** Just talk here.

# 2.093

1.

Woman Do you have trouble getting up in the morning? You can record your own voice on this

talking clock. It gently tells you to get up and then it gets louder and louder!

# 2.094

2.

Man Sometimes it's boring tarnishing your teeth. This electric toothbrush has an MP3 player

built in. You can listen to music at the same time!

### 2.095

3.

**Woman** Nothing is worse than a power failure. What if you are hungry and would like a bowl of

soup? This electronic dictionary has an electric heater built in. You can check how to spell a word and heat your soup at the same time! Just be careful not to spill your

soup.

#### 2.096

4.

Man

Do you have a remote control for your DVD player? Of course you do. So Why not have a remote control for your car? This one has a laser pointer built in. You can park your car, then move it to your front door by pressing this button and -

## 2.097

5.

Woman

No one has time to eat any more. Are you hungry because you work, work, work? The robot lunch box will save you time. Just put your lunch inside the box, press the button and zoom! It Will feed you while you work!

## 2.098

6.

Man

Men, you never have enough time to shave in the morning, do you? But you have lots of time to talk on the phone! Why not use our shaver phone to talk and shave at the same time! Hello? Hello?

# 2.099

Example: Anyone can be an inventor

- 1. This one goes in your ear.
- 2. You just need to think of an idea.
- 3. It's boring brushing your teeth.
- 4. You can record your own voice on this talking clock.
- 5. You can park your car, then move it to your front door.
- 6. You can listen to music at the same time!

# 2.100

The Four Great Inventions are inventions from ancient China that are celebrated for their historical importance. They are also symbols of ancient China's advanced science and technology. The Four Great Inventions are the compass, gunpowder, papermaking and printing.

The earliest mention of a compass comes from the Chinese Han Dynasty in around 206 BC. The compass was made by taking a piece of lodestone, which is naturally magnetic, and placing it in a bowl of water.

Gunpowder was discovered in 900 AD during the Tang Dynasty. The Chinese scientists who discovered it were actually trying to cure death so that people could live forever. They accidentally created gunpowder, and quickly began to use it in warfare.

Papermaking has been traced back to the Han Dynasty in 105 AD, when a man named Cai Lun created the first sheet of paper. He made it using a combination of plants and old fishnets.

The oldest example of printing onto paper dates back to 650 AD, during the Tang Dynasty. At this time, printing was done with woodblocks. Characters were carved upon a wooden board and then covered in ink and pressed onto paper.