

TOEFL QUESTIONS: These passages are excerpts from a much longer TOEFL passage. We will take them one paragraph at a time to make them easier. Teachers, please let the students try to answer by themselves before calling on someone to give the answer. It's important that each student answer on their own, then check the answer and discuss why it's right.

The cinema did not emerge as a form of mass consumption until its technology evolved from the initial "peepshow" format to the point where images were projected on a screen in a darkened theater. In the "peepshow" format, films were viewed through a small opening in a machine that was created for that purpose. Thomas Edison's peepshow device, the Kinetoscope, was introduced to the public in 1894. It was designed for use in Kinetoscope parlors, or arcades, which contained only a few individual machines and permitted only one customer to view a short, 50-foot film at any one time. The first Kinetoscope parlors contained five machines. For the price of 25 cents or 5 cents per machine, customers moved from machine to machine to watch five different films, or in the case of prizefights, successive rounds of a single fight.

1. According to this paragraph, all of the following were true of viewing films in Kinetoscope parlors EXCEPT:
  - a- One individual at a time viewed a film.
  - b- Customers could view one film after another.
  - c- Prizefights were the most popular subjects for films.
  - d- Each film was short.

These Kinetoscope arcades were modeled on phonograph parlors, which had proven successful for Edison several years earlier. In the phonograph parlors, customers listened to recordings through individual ear tubes, moving from one machine to the next to hear different recorded speeches or pieces of music. The Kinetoscope parlors functioned in a similar way. Edison was more interested in the sale of Kinetoscopes for roughly \$1,000 a piece to these parlors than in the films that would be run in them (which cost \$10 to \$15 each). He refused to develop projection technology, reasoning that if he made and sold projectors, then exhibitors would purchase only one machine, a projector, from him instead of several.

2. The author discusses phonograph parlors in paragraph 2 in order to:
  - a- explain Edison's financial success
  - b- describe the model used to design Kinetoscope parlors
  - c- contrast their popularity to that of Kinetoscope parlors
  - d- illustrate how much more technologically advanced Kinetoscope parlors were
3. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the underlined sentence in the passage? Incorrect answers change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.
  - a- Edison was more interested in developing a variety of machines than in developing a technology based on only one.
  - b- Edison refused to work on projection technology because he did not think exhibitors would replace their projectors with newer machines.

c- Edison did not want to develop projection technology because it limited the number of machines he could sell

d-Edison would not develop projection technology unless exhibitors agreed to purchase more than one projector from him.

**Discussion:**

1. What is the most useful invention in the 20th or 21st century?
2. What invention did most to change your grandparents lives?
3. What invention actually makes our life more difficult?
4. What machine would you be most willing to do without?
5. Would it be possible for you to live without a cell phone?
6. Does the internet bring more evil than good?
7. Do you think future inventions will allow humans to live significantly longer than now?
8. Would you sign up for space travel if the cost was affordable?