



**Inventions random pelmanism**  
**(History for ESL students/ Technical English)**

**Task 1**

*Take turns trying to match older inventions on the left with ones we use now on the right, and say why they are connected, e.g. that they do the same thing or use the same kind of power. Any kind of connection you can come up with is okay.*

Steam engine	Smoke signals	Fax	PDA
Chariot	Fountain pen	Pacemaker	MP3 player
Messenger pigeon	Horse and cart	Mobile phone	Nuclear power station
The telegraph	Sundial	Digital watch	Sewing machine
Charcoal	Bronze dagger	GPS	Internet
Flint tools	Spear	Rifle	Photocopier
Kite	Camel train	Articulated lorry	Scanner
Compass	Woodblock printing	Jet foil	Paper
Carbon paper	Needle	Tank	Ballpoint pen
Papyrus	Candles	Machine gun	Solar panels
Gas lighting	Sailing ship/ galleon	Dynamite	Phillips screwdriver
Quill and ink	Cross bow	Digital camera	Air conditioning



Catapult	Battering ram	Chain saw	Rocket launcher
Horseshoes	Stirrups	Shotgun	Laser eye surgery
Woodblock printing	Windmill	Automatic pencil	Calculator
Barrel organ	Gunpowder	Elevator	Hybrid car
Bone tools	Cave paintings	Taser	USB flash drives
Bellows	Cannon	Stapler	Cloud seeding
Axe	Musket	Jet ski	Video games
Pocket watch	Grandfather clock	Laser Quest	Massage chairs
Monocle	Slide rule	Microscope	MRI
Dumb waiter	Invisible ink	X ray	Breathalyser
Parchment	(Spinning) top	Organ transplant	Space shuttle
Cutthroat razor	Coal gas	Microwave	Disposable razor
Archimedes' screw	Carpet sweeper	Hoover (= vacuum cleaner)	3D movies

**Task 2- Discussion questions**

*Do you think any of the things on the left are still used?*

*Which of the things on the right do you think will still be used in 2050?*