

**МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ
СУМСЬКИЙ ДЕРЖАВНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ
КАФЕДРА ІНОЗЕМНИХ МОВ
ЛІНГВІСТИЧНИЙ НАВЧАЛЬНО-МЕТОДИЧНИЙ ЦЕНТР**

**МАТЕРІАЛИ
VIII МІЖВУЗІВСЬКОЇ НАУКОВО-ПРАКТИЧНОЇ
КОНФЕРЕНЦІЇ
ЛІНГВІСТИЧНОГО НАВЧАЛЬНО-МЕТОДИЧНОГО ЦЕНТРУ
КАФЕДРИ ІНОЗЕМНИХ МОВ**

“TO LIVE IN A SAFER WORLD”

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ACCIDENTAL INVENTION OF VELCRO

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What is necessary for invention? Inventions require months or even years of research and experiments. However, history is replete with cases of casual inventions, which have brought huge benefits to mankind.

One of such inventions is Velcro fastener. Original name of this invention comes from the French word Velcro which means agrimony. In English-speaking countries this invention is called - Hook & Loop.

Velcro idea appeared in 1941, when Swiss inventor George de Mestral was walking his dog. After returning home, he noticed that his coat and all dog hair were covered with thistles. Nosy Swiss decided to find out how this plant so strongly clings to wool. After researching the burdock under the microscope, it was found that the reason - the tiny hooks that agrimony was attached to wool tightly. Guided by the discovered property, George de Mestral created two tapes. On the first tape there were small hooks like hooks of burdock, and on the second - nap of wool. This is how the alternative fastener appeared!

After 14 years after its invention, Velcro fastener has gained recognition in many areas of industry. Velcro fastener has several advantages: possibility of making any form of fastener, compact size, flexible structure that allows this type of connection for all types of fabric and leather, absence of metal and plastic parts, which reduces its price, invisibility of fastener, speed of connection and disconnection, water resistance and durability.

Now almost all children's shoes and clothing produced with this type of fastener. In addition, the Velcro fastener is an essential feature of military clothing and space suits, which is another proof of its great convenience and practicality of use.

That's how accidental invention may change the life of the inventor and all mankind.