

**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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ZIPPER –A THING THAT KEEPS TOGETHER

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It was a long way up for the humble zipper, the mechanical wonder that has kept so much in our lives 'together.' On its way up the zipper has passed through the hands of several dedicated inventors but none convinced the public to accept the zipper as a part of everyday costume. Later the magazine and fashion industry made the novel zipper a popular item as it is today, but it happened nearly eighty years after the zipper's first appearance.

Elias Howe, who invented the sewing machine, received a patent in 1851 for an 'Automatic, Continuous Clothing Closure. But Howe missed his chance to become a recognized “Father of the Zip” because of the success of the sewing machine. Forty-four years later, Mr. Whitcomb Judson marketed a 'Clasp Locker'- a device similar to the 1851 Howe patent. It came about because of his friend’s stiff back. The problem was that his friend could not do up his shoes. Judson came up with a slide fastener that could be opened or closed with one hand. On August 29, 1893, he patented his new “clasp locker”.

The design with an interlocking teeth we use today, was invented by Gideon Sundback. Only after he had remodeled Judson’s fastener into a more streamlined and reliable form, it was a success. The US Army was among its first customers.

The popular name 'zipper' came from the B. F. Goodrich Company, when they decided to use Gideon Sundback's fastener on a new type of rubber boots or galoshes and renamed the device the zipper. It took twenty more years to convince the fashion industry to seriously promote the novel closure on garments. Big boost for the zipper came when zippers could open on both ends, as on jackets, but the real success came when French fashion designers raved over zippers in men's trousers.

Today the zipper is everywhere, in clothing, luggage and leather goods and countless other objects. Thousands of zipper miles produced daily, meet the needs of consumers, thanks to the early efforts of the many famous zipper inventors.