

Fidget Spinners

Fidget spinners are toys that are made with a ball in the middle and three 'branches' coming from the centre. The branches spin around the middle.

They are made from a range of materials like stainless steel, brass, ceramics, titanium, copper and plastic. The different materials change the vibration and the length of time that the toys spin.



How to Spin a Fidget Spinner

- Hold the middle of the spinner between your index finger and thumb as if you are picking it up.
- Flick one of the outside branches with your middle finger and watch it spin.

How the Fidget Spinner Began

Fidget spinners were created by an American inventor, Catherine Hettinger, in the early 1990s. She was ill but still trying to look after her own eight-year-old daughter. Catherine began inventing toys for her daughter and the two of them went on to create the fidget spinner.

Uses of the Fidget Spinner

- It has been discovered that some children with special educational needs can use fidget spinners to help them to concentrate or calm down.
- They have been found to help people lower their stress levels by helping the user to 'zone out' and clear their mind.

Fidget Spinners in School

Some schools have banned fidget spinners as they say they are a distraction to other pupils and can negatively affect learning. They could also be a danger to others.

Questions

1. What materials might fidget spinners be made from? Tick two.

- brass
- wood
- stainless steel
- wool

2. What does using different materials change? Tick two.

- the size of the spinner
- the vibration of the spinner
- the length of time that the toy spins
- the type of person using the spinner

3. Choose a more suitable sub-heading than 'How to Use a Fidget Spinner'. Tick one.

- Spinning a Fidget Spinner
- Recipe
- Instructions
- Method

4. Match up the sentences.

To make it spin, flick

as if you are picking it up.

Hold the spinner

one of the outside branches.

Flick the spinner

with your middle finger.

5. Which word most closely matches the meaning of 'created'? Tick one.

- found
- invented
- sewed
- fixed

6. Why did Catherine Hettinger make the fidget spinner?

Questions

7. What does the fidget spinner help some children with? Tick one.

their maths

their spellings

their concentration

their spinning

8. Why have some schools banned fidget spinners? Tick one.

They are too much fun.

They are too big.

They are too expensive.

They are too distracting.

Answers

1. What materials might fidget spinners be made from? Tick two.

- brass**
- wood
- stainless steel**
- wool

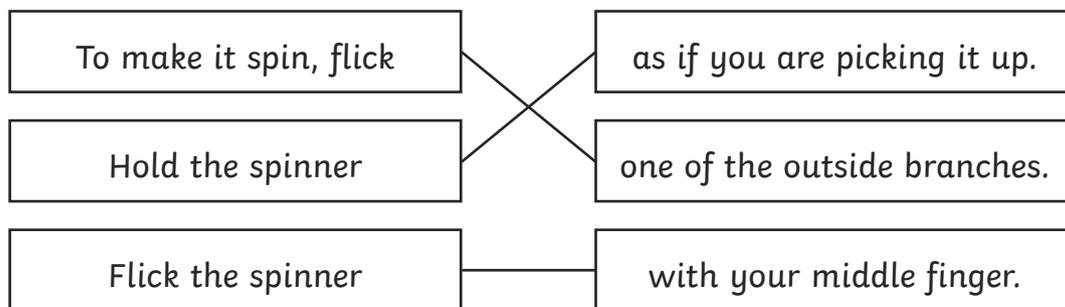
2. What does using different materials change? Tick two.

- the size of the spinner
- the vibration of the spinner**
- the length of time that the toy spins**
- the type of person using the spinner

3. Choose a more suitable sub-heading than 'How to Use a Fidget Spinner'. Tick one.

- Spinning a Fidget Spinner
- Recipe
- Instructions**
- Method

4. Match up the sentences.



5. Which word most closely matches the meaning of 'created'? Tick one.

- found
- invented**
- sewed
- fixed

6. Why did Catherine Hettinger make the fidget spinner?

Catherine Hettinger made the fidget spinner because she was ill and was looking after her daughter. She made the toy for her daughter.

Answers

7. What does the fidget spinner help some children with? Tick one.

their maths

their spellings

their concentration

their spinning

8. Why have some schools banned fidget spinners? Tick one.

They are too much fun.

They are too big.

They are too expensive.

They are too distracting.

Fidget Spinners

Fidget spinners are gadgets with a ball bearing in the middle and three 'branches' coming from the centre. The branches of the gadget spin around the middle.

They are made from a range of materials like stainless steel, brass, ceramics, titanium, copper and plastic. The use of different materials changes the vibration and length of time that the toy spins.



How to Spin a Fidget Spinner

- Hold the middle of the spinner between your index finger and thumb as if you are picking it up.
- Flick one of the outside branches with your middle finger and watch it spin.

How the Fidget Spinner Began

Fidget spinners were created by an American inventor, Catherine Hettinger, in the early 1990s. She was ill but still caring for her eight-year-old daughter and found she didn't have the energy to play with her as much as she would have liked. Catherine began inventing toys for her daughter and between the two of them, they created the first fidget spinner.

Disaster!

In 1997, the fidget spinner toy was patented, which means the person who created it has rights over it to protect the idea from being copied.

However, a patent has to be renewed every few years and in 2005 Hettinger didn't have enough money to renew the patent. She lost the rights over the design and now any company can freely make their own versions. The companies make a lot of money from them but have to give none of it to Hettinger. When she owned the patent, Hettinger would have been making most of the money from the product.

Uses of the Fidget Spinner

Some people believed that the fidget spinner would be useful for helping people to concentrate. It was found to be an especially useful gadget to help children who have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or other special educational needs that affect concentration spans. It is thought that the sensory

experience of the spinner vibrating and creating patterns helps some children with specific needs, to concentrate or to calm down.

The fidget spinners are also used to reduce stress by helping the user to 'zone out' and clear their mind. Because of this, many office workplaces are seeing a rise in workers using finger spinners to ease stress and nervous energy within adult workers.

Fidget Spinners in School

Some schools have banned fidget spinners as they say they are a distraction to other pupils and can negatively affect learning. They could also pose a potential safety hazard.

Some parents of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) are concerned that banning the devices will cause their children to lose concentration and/or feel 'different' to their peers if they are allowed them but their friends are not.

Questions

1. Which materials are fidget spinners made from? Tick two.

- wood
- titanium
- aluminium
- plastic

2. Why are fidget spinners made from different materials?

3. Write your own title for this 'Fidget Spinner' text.

4. How do you make a spinner spin? Tick one.

- Flick it with your index finger
- Push it with your thumb
- Use your middle finger
- Put it on the ground

5. Why did Catherine Hettinger create the fidget spinner? Tick one.

- She was caring for her daughter.
- She was ill.
- She wanted to entertain her daughter.
- She wanted to make money.

6. Match up the sentences.

Hettinger could not renew the patent

A patent means that a person

other companies

has rights over a design.

could now freely make the spinner.

because she didn't have enough money.

Questions

7. Explain how the fidget spinner could help a person's concentration.

8. Put a T for true or F for false beside the following statements.

Then, correctly rewrite the false statements.

Fidget spinners can help some people cope with stress.

The vibrations of the spinner might cause nervous energy.

Hettinger is making a lot of money from the spinners.

The spinners have helped some children with ADHD feel calmer.

Office workplaces are seeing a rise in spinners being used at work.

The spinners can help children with special educational needs to make patterns.

9. Give two different reasons why some schools have banned fidget spinners.

a) _____

b) _____

10. What are your thoughts about fidget spinners being used in schools?

Answers

1. Which materials are fidget spinners made from? Tick two.

- wood
- titanium**
- aluminium
- plastic**

2. Why are fidget spinners made from different materials?

Fidget spinners are made from different materials because they change the vibration and the length of time the spinners spin for.

3. Write a better sub-heading than “How to Use a Fidget Spinner”.

Answers will vary. Possible suggestions are: Instructions to Use a Fidget Spinner, Instructions for How to Use a Fidget Spinner, Using a Finger Spinner or Making it Spin!

4. How do you make a spinner spin? Tick one.

- Flick it with your index finger
- Push it with your thumb
- Use your middle finger**
- Put it on the ground

5. Why did Catherine Hettinger create the fidget spinner? Tick one.

- She was caring for her daughter.
- She was ill.
- She wanted to entertain her daughter.**
- She wanted to make money.

6. Match up the sentences.

Hettinger could not renew the patent	has rights over a design.
A patent means that a person	could now freely make the spinner.
other companies	because she didn't have enough money.

Answers

7. Explain how the fidget spinner could help a person's concentration.

The fidget spinner makes vibrations and patterns, which can help people's concentration or to calm them down if they are feeling stressed or nervous.

8. Put a T for true or F for false beside the following statements.

Then, correctly rewrite the false statements.

Fidget spinners can help some people cope with stress.

T

The vibrations of the spinner might cause nervous energy.

F

Hettinger is making a lot of money from the spinners.

F

The spinners have helped some children with ADHD feel calmer.

T

Office workplaces are seeing a rise in spinners being used at work.

T

The spinners can help children with special educational needs to make patterns.

F

The vibrations of the spinner will help people who have nervous energy.

Hettinger is not making any money from the spinners because she could not afford to renew the patent.

The spinners can help children with special educational needs to concentrate or calm down.

9. Give two different reasons why some schools have banned fidget spinners.

Accept any two:

They say they are a distraction in class, they can negatively affect learning and that they pose a safety hazard.

10. What are your thoughts about fidget spinners being used in schools?

Answers will vary. Example answer:

I think fidget spinners should be allowed in school because they can help us learn and help us to concentrate.

I don't think they should be allowed in school because they can distract people who are trying to learn.

Fidget Spinners

Fidget spinners are gadgets that are made with a ball bearing in the centre and three 'branches' coming from the centre. The 'branches' of the mechanism spin around the middle.

They are made from a range of materials like stainless steel, brass, ceramics, titanium, copper and plastic. The variety of materials used in the bearings alters the vibration and duration of the spin.

How to Spin a Fidget Spinner

Simply hold the middle of the spinner between your index finger and thumb as if you are picking it up. Then, flick one of the outside branches with your middle finger and watch it spin.



Unlike many toys and gadgets, they don't need charging to work so they can be used anywhere at any time.

You can also lie the spinner on a table and hold its centre with your index finger. Use your other hand to flick one of the branches and then let go with your index finger. Depending on the type of spinner you have, it should steadily spin for quite a length of time.

Origins of the Fidget Spinner

Fidget spinners were created by an American inventor, Catherine Hettinger, in the early 1990s. She was ill but still caring for her eight-year-old daughter and found she didn't have the energy to play with her as much as she would have liked to. Catherine began inventing toys for her daughter and between the two of them, they created the first fidget spinner.

In 1997, the fidget spinner was patented, which meant Catherine Hettinger was granted ownership of the design and protected the idea from being copied by others.

However, the patent had to be renewed every few years and in 2005 Hettinger didn't have enough money to renew it. She lost the rights over the design and now many companies make their own versions. The companies are now making a lot of money from sales.

Uses of the Fidget Spinner

Some people believed the fidget spinner would be useful for aiding concentration and focus. It is considered a useful device to help some children who have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism or other special educational needs that affect concentration or their sensory experiences.

The device can also aid fine motor skills with some musicians being known to use the fidget spinner to exercise their fingers before a performance.

Fidget spinners have been used more recently to decrease stress, through the rotation of the branches, helping the user to 'zone out' and clear their mind. The theory of the fidget spinner being used for reducing stress means that many office workplaces are seeing a rise in workers using them to help ease stress and lower nervous energy.

Fidget Spinners in School

Some schools have banned fidget spinners as they say they are a distraction to other pupils and affect learning potential as well as being a potential safety hazard.

Some parents of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) are concerned that banning the devices will cause their children to lose concentration and feel 'different' to their peers if they are allowed them but their friends are not.

Questions

1. Why are the bearings made from different materials?

2. Find and copy one word which means 'length of time'.

3. Write three things that you are told about fidget spinners in the introductory paragraphs.

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

4. What makes fidget spinners different to most hi-tech toys used today?

5. Write a more suitable sub-heading than 'Origins of the Fidget Spinner'.

6. Put these statements in order by numbering them 1 to 4.

A patent was obtained by Hettinger, which lasted until 2005.

A range of companies have the right to make money from fidget spinners.

Hettinger invented the fidget spinner with her daughter.

Hettinger did not have enough money to renew the patent.

7. Identify three types of people who may benefit from using a fidget spinner and explain how it might help them.

Questions

8. Tick 'True' or 'False' for the statements below. Then, rewrite the false statements correctly.

	True	False
Fidget spinners can help the fine motor skills in fingers.		
Fidget spinners could cause people to develop problems with stress.		
Some people with ADHD might find fidget spinners can help to calm them down.		
The rotating branches sometimes increase nervous energy.		

9. Complete the sentences below.

Some schools do not allow fidget spinners because they might...

Parents of children with special educational needs are worried that ...

10. What is your opinion about fidget spinners? Explain your reasons.

Answers

1. Why are the bearings made from different materials?

The bearings are made from different materials because they change the vibration and the duration of the spin.

2. Find and copy one word which means 'length of time'.

duration

3. Write three things that you are told about fidget spinners in the introductory paragraphs.

Accept any three: they are gadgets /made from a ball bearing in the centre with three 'branches' coming from the centre /the mechanism spins around the middle / made from a range of materials like stainless steel, brass, ceramics, titanium, copper and plastic / the bearings alter the vibration and duration of the spin.

4. What makes fidget spinners different to most hi-tech toys used today?

The spinners are very different from most hi-tech toys used today as they don't require charging and can be used anywhere at any time.

5. Write a more suitable sub-heading than 'Origins of the Fidget Spinner'.

Answers will vary. Possible suggestions: The Creation /Invention of Fidget Spinners.

6. Put these statements in order by numbering them 1 to 4.

A patent was obtained by Hettinger, which lasted until 2005.

2

A range of companies have the right to make money from fidget spinners.

4

Hettinger invented the fidget spinner with her daughter.

1

Hettinger did not have enough money to renew the patent.

3

7. Identify three types of people who may benefit from using a fidget spinner and explain how it might help them.

Children who have ADHD or special educational needs; musicians; office workers or anyone who feels stressed at work; people who get 'wound up' and need calming down might benefit from using a fidget spinner because the vibration and the patterns created when they spin can help 'zone' people out and clear their minds.

Answers

8. Tick 'True' or 'False' for the statements below. Then, rewrite the false statements correctly.

	True	False
Fidget spinners can help the fine motor skills in fingers.	✓	
Fidget spinners could cause people to develop problems with stress.		✓
Some people with ADHD might find fidget spinners can help to calm them down.	✓	
The rotating branches sometimes increase nervous energy.		✓

Fidget spinners can help people with stress.

The rotating branches often help people reduce their nervous energy.

9. Complete the sentences below.

Some schools do not allow fidget spinners because they might...

cause distractions for other children /be a safety hazard.

Parents of children with special educational needs are worried that ...

if the fidget spinners are banned, their children will lose concentration, or that they might feel different if they are allowed them in school but their friends are not.

10. What is your opinion about fidget spinners? Explain your reasons.

Answers will vary.

Possible answers: I think fidget spinners should be allowed in school because they can help us learn and help us to concentrate/because they help some children with ADHD and special educational needs to feel calm at school.

I don't think they should be allowed in school because they can distract people who are trying to learn/could be dangerous to other pupils.