

Unit 7

■ Innovations

Many companies have a department called the Research and Development department, or "R & D" for short. The people in this department are creative thinkers who look for ways to improve existing products or come up with innovative ideas that may lead to a totally new **invention**. The creative process to develop one may take months or even years. During this trial and error period, the researchers may make important breakthroughs while experimenting with materials and designs. Their discoveries can lead to revolutionary new products. The company has to get a patent that gives it exclusive rights to **manufacture** the product. **Alternatively**, it may grant a license that allows another company the right to produce the product. Frequently, there are important spin-offs, or unexpected products in an unrelated area, that make good profits for the company and are valuable for the end user.

1 invention (n) 發明

Ex. The world changed rapidly after the invention of the smart phone.

word family:

- The suspect told the police that he didn't invent the story.
- James Dyson is the inventor of the bagless vacuum cleaner.
- Walter is quite inventive. He can always dream up new gadgets for home.

2 manufacture (v) 製造

Ex. Nike started as a small company manufacturing running shoes.

word family:

- The company is engaged in the manufacture of computer hardware.
- The country imports lots of manufactures.
- Faulty goods should be returned to the manufacturers.
- Many jobs in manufacturing were lost during the recession.

3 alternatively (adv) 兩者擇一地

Ex. We could go to the Thai restaurant, or alternatively, we could try that new Indian place.

word family:

- Doctors these days tend to be more open-minded about **alternative medicine**.
- If your first choice is not available, we always have alternatives to offer.

- The weather **alternated between** rain and sunshine every day during the holiday.
- The bus runs on alternate Saturdays.

■ Exports / imports

Nowadays an increasing amount of cargo is being brought from overseas or sent abroad as countries exchange **commodities**, in other words, become **involved** in trade. This freight is **packed** into/in large **containers** and then hauled by road, air, or ship to its destination. If the cargo is fragile, then it must be handled with care and cushioned in reinforced packaging to protect it from damage. Often, cargo that is going to be transported is stored temporarily in a warehouse before being loaded onto a vehicle. If the shipment is being exported, then each commodity and its quantity or weight must be declared to the customs officials of the receiving country.

4 commodity (n) 商品

Ex. Oil is a commodity in high demand.

word family:

- If you are going into teaching, energy is a necessary commodity.

synonyms:

- There's a 20% discount on all electrical _____ till the end of the week.
- Shoppers complained about poor quality _____ and high prices.

5 **involve** (v) 包含、牽涉

Ex. Running your own business usually involves working long hours.

word family:

- I don't want to **get involved in** their problems.
- The plot of the movie was so involved that none of us understood it.
- The city councilor denied that he had any direct involvement in the deal.

word roots: 表「行為動作」volve =

evolve (out+roll)

devolve (down+roll)

revolve (again+roll)

6 pack (v) 裝(箱)、包裝 **OPP:**

Ex. He packed a small **bag/suitcase** for the weekend.

word family:

- Fans packed the stadium to watch the final match.

- He bought a pack of cigarettes at a convenience store.
- The postman has just delivered a package for you.
- a package of cookies = a _____ of biscuits
- The hotel, airfare and museum fees are all part of our vacation package.
- The organic olives are packaged in recycled glass containers.

7 container (n) 容器

Ex. The tea leaves come in a small metal container.

word family:

- The movie contains something for both children and adults.
- I couldn't contain my excitement any longer.
- Doctors are struggling to contain the epidemic.

word roots: 表「行為動作」tain, ten, tin =
 detain (away+hold)
 content (together+hold)
 continent (together+hold+n)

■ Property

For most people, buying a residence is the most important purchase they will make. Because it is so expensive to buy a single-family house or just an apartment within a building, buyers usually finance their purchase by making a down payment on a percentage of the agreed price and taking out a mortgage on the remaining balance. Most people arrange the buying and selling through a real estate agent, or realtor, who receives a fee or commission. Usually a **prospective buyer** makes an offer for a property and if they make a deal with the owner, he or she accepts the offer. Some people buy property as an investment. Typically they will renovate and then rent out or **lease** the property, either furnished or unfurnished, through a realtor. These include commercial spaces as well as residential housing, both downtown and in the suburbs. The landlord signs a contract with the tenant(s), which includes details about the rights and responsibilities of each party.

8 property (n) 所有物、房產

Ex. He left most of his property to his children.

word family:

- Buying a property is a complicated business.
- Some herbs have special healing properties.

word choices: **possessions, belongings, personal effects**

- He sold all his possessions and left his country.
- She put a few of **personal** belongings in an overnight bag.
- The insurance policy covers baggage and personal effects – up to NTDS\$ 40,000 per person.

9 prospective (a) 預期的

Ex. The university will be holding an open day for **prospective students**.

word family:

- There's not much prospect that the war will be over soon.
- The company specializes in prospecting **for** oil.

10 lease (n) 租約

Ex. He **signed** a two-year lease when he moved into the flat.

The landlord refused to **renew** his lease.

The 10-year lease **expired** in 2015.

Do you understand all **the terms of** the lease?

word choices: **rent, hire, lease**

- We rented an apartment together.
- The TV is rented.
- You can hire a car at the airport.
- The building was leased **to** a health club.