

4 How's it done?

Describing fixes

- 1 Do you have a product like Mr Fixit in your toolbox? If so, what do you use it for? If not, how do you think it could be useful?

Uses

- Keeps moving parts running smoothly. Soaks into rust. Loosens and frees metal parts that are stuck.
- Dries out electrical systems and prevents short circuits.
- Shields metal surfaces from moisture and other corrosive elements. Prevents rust and corrosion.
- Gets under dirt and grease, making it easy to wipe them away. Dissolves adhesives, making it easy to remove tape and sticky labels.



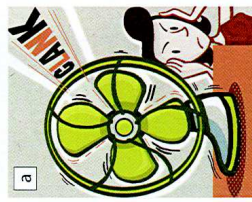
- 2 Here are four things Mr Fixit does. Match each one to a different use.

- Cleans
- Protects
- Lubricates
- Displaces moisture

- 3 Find words or expressions in the uses that mean:

- clean by rubbing with a soft cloth.
- stops something happening.
- operating efficiently.
- makes something become liquid.
- makes something completely wet.
- guards against, protects.
- won't move.

- 4 Look at the pictures. How could Mr Fixit help in these situations?



- 5 Mr Fixit is very popular. Listen to four people talking about how they used it.

- Match each story to the correct picture.
- Say what the problem was and explain how Mr Fixit helped.

- 6 Listen again and complete the sentences.

- a I tried turning the key in the ..., but it was ... nothing happened.
b It stops them ... in cold weather.
- a We tried ... them, but they were ... we couldn't, and they left a ...
b We sprayed it on and left it to ...
3 a I pulled and twisted it, but it was ...
b I gave it one ..., and the seat ...!
- a It kept us cool, but it made ...
b My husband ... the moving parts with Mr Fixit, and that ...

Explaining effects

We use so to add emphasis when we're explaining effects:

The labels were so firmly stuck

we couldn't remove them.

It was so rusty it wouldn't budge.

The fan made so much noise it kept us awake.

- 7 Suggest possible endings for these sentences.

- The door was so firmly shut I couldn't ...
- The machine made so much noise we couldn't ...
- The scissors were so rusty they wouldn't ...
- The string was so tangled he couldn't ...
- The windscreen was so dirty we couldn't ...

- 8 Use the words from the lists to complete some more stories.

lubricated wiped did checked

My car's door warning alarm kept going off last week. I ...¹ all the doors, but they were all shut. So today I ...² all the door latches. I sprayed lots of Mr Fixit on them and ...³ the excess off with a rag. It ...⁴ the trick, and the door alarm stopped.

dissolved sprayed peeled used

A couple of years ago we had a mouse in the kitchen. We ...⁵ a sticky strip to catch it but we didn't want to kill it. But the adhesive was so strong we couldn't remove it without hurting it. So we ...⁶ Mr Fixit around its feet and it ...⁷ the adhesive. Then we ...⁸ the mouse off the strip, took it to a field, and let it go.

gave loosened soaked squirted

I went away on a trip for six months and when I got home the garbage disposal in my sink was so rusty it wouldn't budge. I ...⁹ it in Mr Fixit and left it for a while. A little later I ...¹⁰ it a tug and it moved. I ...¹¹ on some more Mr Fixit and ...¹² it some more. Then I turned it on and how it's running smoothly again.

- 9 Work in pairs or groups. Think of something you've had to mend or repair. Explain what the problem was and what you did to fix it.

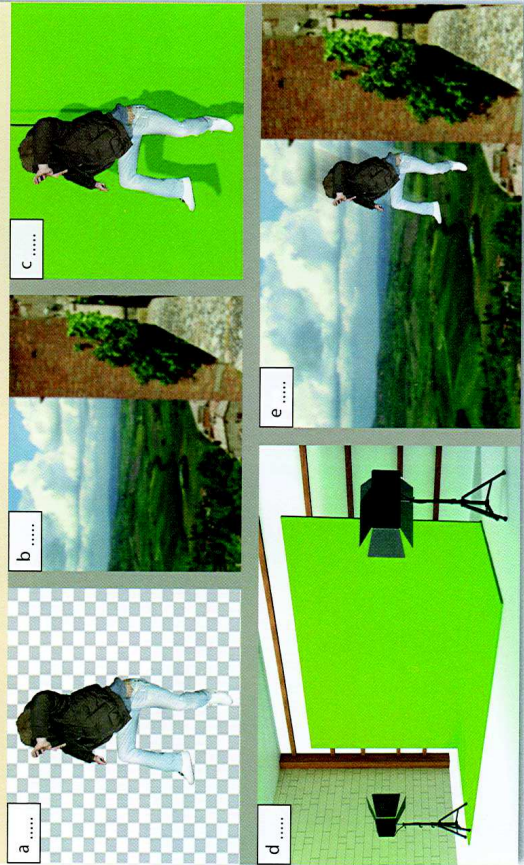
Explaining processes

- 1 What's your favourite film? Does it contain any special effects? How do you think they were created?
- 2 Read about a movie making process and number the pictures in the correct order.

Chroma Key

The chroma key process is used in the movie industry to create special effects. It enables actors and actresses to look as if they are in dangerous situations, when in fact they're perfectly safe. Here's how it works.

- 1 First, a green background is created in the studio. Often a wall and floor are painted green, or sometimes a fabric screen is erected. If it's fabric, extra care is taken to ensure that it's smooth and evenly lit.
- 2 Next, an actor or actress is videoed in the studio against the green background. They could ride a bike, hang from a ladder, or stand on their head, but they can't wear any green clothes. Only the background is green.



- 3 The video is then taken to the editing room. Because human skin is a warm colour with very few green tones, it's possible to select just the green background and replace it with a transparent layer. This is easily done with video editing software. (Sometimes directors prefer to work with blue instead of green. Both colours work well.)
- 4 The video is now ready to be combined with a new background scene. This could be a shot of a dangerous location like a fiery volcano, a tall skyscraper, or perhaps a fast-moving river.
- 5 The background scene is placed 'behind' the actor or actress and the two images are mixed. The director gets the exciting shot they need, but with no risk to the actor, actress, or the movie budget.

Active or passive?

When we're interested in what things or people do, we use active forms.
Both *green* and *blue* **work** well.
The *film director* **gets** an exciting shot.
When we're interested in what happens to things or people, we use passive forms.
The video **is taken** to the editing room.
The actors **are videoed** in the studio.

- 3 Find more examples of active and passive forms in the description of the chroma key process. Explain why they are used.
- 4 What's the best way of continuing after the sentences below? Choose the best alternative. Think about whether you need to say what things do or what's happened to them.
 - 1 I have a new camera.
 - 2 It's very small and compact.
 - 3 Did you see the movie *March of the Penguins*?
 - 4 This mobile phone has a built-in camera.
 - 5 Children love watching animated movies.
 - 6 And watching them is loved by lots of adults, too.
 - 7 Sanyo makes a waterproof video camera.
- 5 Work in pairs or small groups. You are directing a low-budget movie and you need some special effects. You want to create these shots with no risk to your actors or your budget. How can it be done?
 - 1 An actor climbing up a 50 m wall
 - 2 A space ship moving across the sky at night
 - 3 An actor in pouring rain when it's not raining
 - 4 An actor being killed with a long sword
 - 5 The water in a river rising up and parting, so your actors can walk across the river bed
- 6 Compare your answers with some other groups. Did you have the same ideas? You can read how these things have been done in some real movies in file 31 on page 100.

- 8 The Groovy Movie Picture House is the world's first mobile solar-powered cinema.
 - a Eight large solar panels power it.
 - b It's powered by eight large solar panels.

