

Words to Know

inventions	in • ven • tions
styles	styles
athletic	ath • let • ic
aerobic	aer • o • bic
canvas	can • vas
soles	soles



When people come together to share ideas, they can improve inventions. For example, let's take a look at athletic shoes.

The first sport shoe appeared in 1908. These were the Converse Rubber Shoes. They had canvas tops and rubber soles. They came up over the ankles. They laced up the front. Soon basketball players were wearing them.

By 1917 there were Keds for women. But that was just the beginning. In a short time, there were shoes for all kinds of sports. And there were different styles for different sports. Tennis shoes, aerobic shoes, running shoes, and basketball shoes are just a few examples.

Today people wear sport shoes all the time. These shoes come in many colors. They feel good on our feet. What would we do without them?

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1. What word in the story means "to make better"? _____
 2. Many different styles of sports shoes have developed. Why are they so popular?

 3. If there were no athletic shoes, what do you think people would wear?
