

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.