



THE BUBBLE GUM STORY

Part 1: A Sticky Accident

In 1928, a young accountant named Walter Diemer worked at a chewing gum factory in Philadelphia. He wasn't a scientist — he just liked to experiment with gum recipes in his free time. One afternoon, he mixed a batch that was stretchier and less sticky than usual. He blew a bubble. It worked.

Walter had accidentally invented bubble gum.

He colored it pink because that was the only dye available. The gum was sold as “Dubble Bubble,” and it became a hit. Kids loved it. Adults were confused. Teachers were suspicious. And Walter? He never patented the formula — he just kept smiling and teaching others how to blow bubbles.

Soon, bubble gum spread across the country. It appeared in candy stores, schoolyards, and baseball dugouts. People competed to blow the biggest bubble. Some popped gum on their noses. Others got it stuck in their hair. Bubble gum became more than candy — it was a challenge, a skill, and sometimes a disaster.

Part 2: The Bubble Test

Years later, a student named Camila tried bubble gum for the first time. She chewed. She stretched. She blew a bubble the size of a tennis ball — and it popped on her face.

Her teacher stared. Her friend laughed. Camila peeled gum off her nose and said, “I think Walter would be proud.”

Comprehension Questions

1. Who invented bubble gum, and how?
2. Why was the gum pink?
3. What happened after bubble gum became popular?
4. What happened to Camila during her bubble test?
5. What do you think she meant by “Walter would be proud”?

Grammar Focus: Past Simple + Cause and Effect

Examples from the story:

- He mixed a batch of gum.
- It became a hit.
- She blew a bubble and it popped.

Mini Task: Write two sentences using because or so.

Example: Camila blew a big bubble, so it popped on her face.

Teacher's Key

Comprehension Questions

1. Walter Diemer invented bubble gum by accident while experimenting at a gum factory.
2. Pink was the only dye available.
3. Bubble gum became popular in stores, schools, and sports — people competed and sometimes made a mess.
4. Camila blew a bubble that popped on her face.
5. She meant that her bubble disaster was part of the fun — like Walter's original invention.

Grammar Task: Accept any correct past simple + cause/effect sentences.

Examples:

- Walter didn't patent the gum, so others copied it.
- Camila chewed too fast because she was excited.