



ACCIDENTAL POST-IT NOTE

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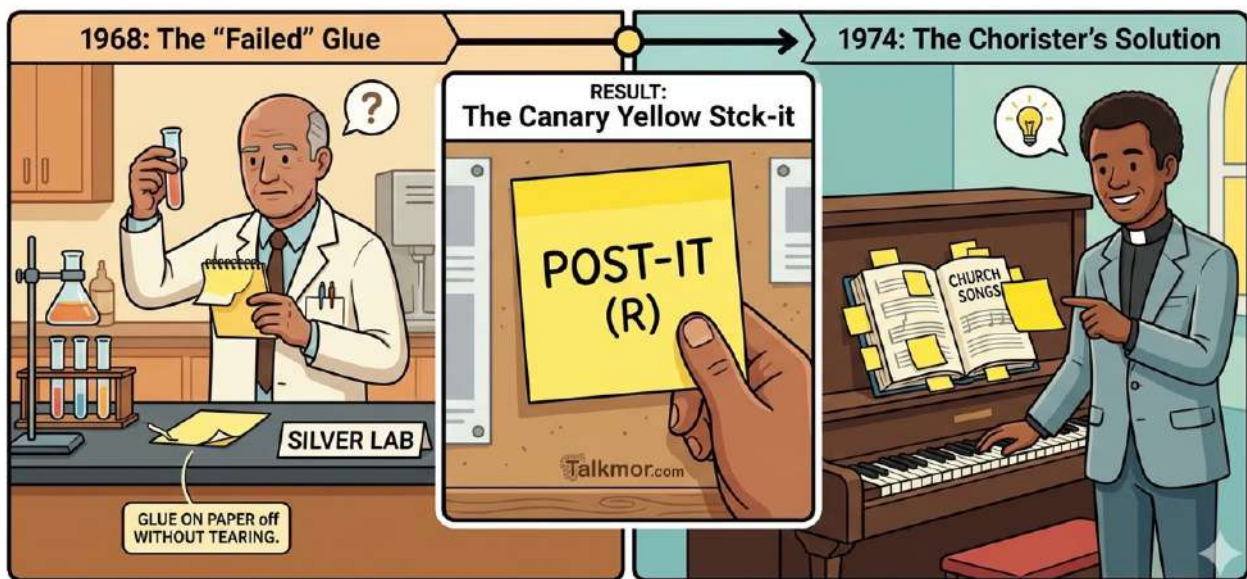
PDF 1: Reading Passage + Comprehension

Title: Accidental Post-it Note – Reading & Comprehension

Level: Pre-Intermediate to Intermediate (A2–B1)

Time: 20–30 minutes

The Accidental Post-it



Vocabulary

Word	Meaning	Sounds like
accidental	happening by mistake	ak-si-DEN-tuhl
adhesive	a substance used to stick things together	ad-HEE-siv
pressure-sensitive	sticks when pressed but easy to remove	PRESH-er SEN-si-tiv
hymnal	a book of church songs	HIM-nuhl
persistence	continuing even when things are difficult	per-SIS-tens

Activity: The Sticky Note Hunt

The Task:

1. Write **three** new English words you learned today on three yellow sticky notes.
2. Walk around the room and "post" your notes on objects that match the word.

Examples:

- Stick the word "**Adhesive**" on a glue stick.
- Stick the word "**Manual**" on a notebook or a door handle.

Reading Passage

Accidental Post-it Note

Some of the world’s most successful products started as mistakes. The Post-it Note is a perfect example.

1968: The “Failed” Glue

Dr. Spencer Silver, a scientist at 3M company, was trying to create a super-strong adhesive. Instead, he accidentally invented a weak, pressure-sensitive glue. It could stick things together but was easy to remove without leaving any marks. At the time, everyone thought it was useless.

1974: The “Aha!” Moment

Six years later, another 3M scientist named **Art Fry** had a problem. He sang in his church choir and used small pieces of paper to mark songs in his hymnal, but the papers kept falling out. He remembered Dr. Silver’s weak glue and had a brilliant idea: put that glue on the back of small pieces of paper to make reusable bookmarks.

The Yellow Color

The famous canary yellow color was also an accident! The team used scrap yellow paper from another lab for their first tests. People loved the bright color, so it became the standard.

Today, Post-it Notes are used in offices, schools, and homes all over the world. This “failed” glue became one of 3M’s most successful products — all because of persistence and a good idea at the right time.

Comprehension Questions

A. True or False

True / False

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Dr. Spencer Silver wanted to create a weak glue. | _____ |
| 2. Art Fry used Post-it Notes in his church choir. | _____ |
| 3. The yellow color was chosen because it was the most popular color. | _____ |
| 4. The Post-it Note became a very successful product. | _____ |

B. Multiple Choice

- Why was Dr. Silver’s glue considered a failure at first?
a) It was not strong enough b) It was too expensive c) It was too sticky
- What problem did Art Fry have?
a) He couldn’t find his church songs
b) His bookmarks kept falling out
c) He didn’t like singing

C. Short Answer

- What is the “happy accident” in this story?
- Why do you think the Post-it Note was so successful?