



ALARM CLOCK - A LOVE-HATE STORY

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PDF 1: Reading Passage + Comprehension

Title: Alarm Clock: A Love-Hate Story – Reading & Comprehension

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

Time: 20–30 minutes

Alarm Clock: A Love-Hate Story



Vocabulary

Word	Meaning	Sounds like
mechanical	using moving parts and machines	muh-KAN-i-kul
adjustable	can be changed or set to different levels	uh-JUST-uh-bul
snooze	to sleep a little more after waking up	SNOOZ
invention	a new thing that someone creates	in-VEN-shun
relationship	the way two things or people are connected	ri-LAY-shun-ship

Discussion Questions

- Do you hate waking up in the morning? Why or why not?
- What is the best way to wake up (alarm, music, sunlight, etc.)?

Reading Passage:

Alarm Clock: A Love-Hate Story

Almost everyone hates their alarm clock in the morning. But do you know the interesting story behind this noisy invention?

Long ago, people used simple ways to wake up. In ancient times, the Greeks and Egyptians used **water clocks**. Water slowly filled a bowl until it made a sound or dropped something to wake the sleeper. Later, people used **candle clocks** — they put nails in a candle so that when the wax melted, the nails fell and made a noise.

The first mechanical alarm clock was invented in 1787 by an American clockmaker named **Levi Hutchins**. He made it only for himself because he wanted to wake up at exactly 4:00 a.m. for work. Interestingly, his clock could **only ring at 4 a.m.** — it was not adjustable!

In the 19th and 20th centuries, alarm clocks became smaller and more popular. Factories and schools needed workers and students to arrive on time. The modern **snooze button** appeared in 1956. It gave people a few extra minutes of sleep — usually nine minutes.

Today, most people use their smartphones as alarm clocks. But the love-hate relationship continues: the alarm clock is useful, but nobody likes the sound in the morning!

Comprehension Questions

A. True or False

True / False

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. People in ancient times used water clocks to wake up. | _____ |
| 2. Levi Hutchins invented the first alarm clock for everyone to buy. | _____ |
| 3. His alarm clock could ring at any time. | _____ |
| 4. The snooze button was invented in 1956. | _____ |

B. Multiple Choice

1. What did Levi Hutchins use his alarm clock for?
 - a) To wake up at 4 a.m. for work
 - b) To wake up his family
 - c) To sell to other people
2. Why is the snooze button popular?
 - a) It helps people sleep more
 - b) It makes the alarm louder
 - c) It turns the alarm off forever

C. Short Answer

1. Where does the story of the alarm clock begin?
2. Why do many people have a love-hate relationship with alarm clocks?