Still famous

Activity 1B & 1C (CD 3 Tracks 7 & 8, 3 minutes 20 seconds)

First, Alexander Graham Bell.
Interviewer: Mr. Bell?
Bell: Yes?
Interviewer: What’s this?
Bell: It’s called the telephone. It’s a new word. **Tele** means “long distance,” and **phone** means “sound.”
Interviewer: Oh.
Bell: There are two parts to it – one part you speak into, and the other part you listen to.
Interviewer: Oh, and how do you use this telephone?
Bell: Well, we don’t need to send messages by telegraph anymore.
Interviewer: Ah!
Bell: With the telephone, we can actually speak to each other over long distances.
Interviewer: Hmm. Can I try it?
Bell: Sure. Just go into the other room, and pick up the telephone.
Interviewer: OK.
Bell: Then we can continue this interview over the telephone.
Interviewer: All right – if you’re sure it’s safe . . .
Bell: Hello?

Next, Thomas Edison.
Interviewer: So, Mr. Edison. Tell us about your new invention.
Edison: Well, this is going to make a big difference in people’s lives. It’s going to make people’s homes more pleasant and the streets safer.
Interviewer: Yes, I can see how the streets might be safer. What do you call your invention?
Edison: I call it an electric lightbulb. Look, I’ll show you how it works. I turn on the electricity and . . .
Interviewer: Wow! That’s so bright!

Edison: Yes. Yes, it is. Now, don’t touch it.
Interviewer: And where will these...uh...these lightbulbs be used?
Edison: Oh, in homes and streets – they’ll replace gas lighting. I’m building a machine to make them in a factory, so the price will not be expensive. Soon every home will have them.
Interviewer: So, the future is “bright,” Mr. Edison?
Edison: Ha-ha-ha. It sure is!
Interviewer: Ha-ha-ha.

Finally, Karl Benz.
Interviewer: Mr. Benz, how does this vehicle work?
Benz: Well, yeah, I’ll show you. It’s called a **motor car** or an **automobile**. Now, this motor in the back pushes the wheels around. The motor uses gasoline.
Interviewer: And how do you control the direction?
Benz: Ah! This handle here turns the front wheel. If you want to go to the right, you push it to the left.
Interviewer: How fast does it go?
Benz: The top speed is about eighteen miles per hour.
Interviewer: Oh, that’s fast! Can I have a ride?
Benz: Yes, yes, yes, absolutely. There’s room for two people.
Interviewer: Oh, good.
Benz: I’ll just ask my assistant to start the motor. Gustav!
Interviewer: Oh-ho! Ha-ha!
Benz: Ha-ha. Very nice, huh?
Interviewer: Yes!