

How a Scottish man powered the Industrial Revolution | E14 The Scottish English Podcast

<i>Transcript</i>	<i>Vocabulary and grammar structures you should know. *= meaning used in the podcast if there is more than one meaning.</i>	<i>Collocations, idioms and other useful phrases.</i>
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Claire | Kilted English:

In the 18th century, a young Scottish engineer stood at the edge of a revolution. He saw potential where others saw inefficiency and his ideas would change the world forever. His invention? A steam engine, so powerful, it fueled industries, transformed transport, and shaped the modern world.

This is the story of James Watt, not that one, an 18th century one. Let's find out all about him.

Hello and welcome to the Scottish English Podcast, the show where you can improve your English while learning about Scotland's culture and history.

I'm Claire, and today we are talking about a Scottish inventor who quite literally powered the world. His name was James Watt, the man behind the steam engine.

But before I get started, remember, you can download the transcript from this episode, which includes definitions as well as collocations and

At the edge of a revolution (figurative)

- On the verge of a major change (often used metaphorically to describe being part of major progress)

See potential

- Recognise the value or future usefulness

Fuel (verb)

/'fju:əl/

- Provided energy or support for something

Transform (verb)

/træns 'fɔ:m/

- Changed completely in form, appearance, or character

Quite literally (emphatic phrase)

(used to stress that the statement is true without exaggeration)

- See the potential in something/someone

- Fuel a movement
- Fuel growth
- Fuel conflict

- Transform into...
- ... be transformed by
- Transform the way (we live/work etc.)

<p>some idiomatic phrases for some of the more challenging words.</p> <p>And also do subscribe and hit that notification bell so that you know when the next episode of the Scottish English Podcast comes out.</p> <p>So how did James Watts <u>invention</u> change history? Let's find out.</p> <p>Early Life and Education.</p> <p>James Watt was born in Greenock in 1736. As a young boy, he showed a talent for mathematics and engineering. He trained as an instrument maker, and it was during his work at the University of Glasgow where he first <u>encountered</u> the steam engine.</p> <p>The breakthrough.</p> <p>At the time, steam engines existed, but they were <u>inefficient</u>. The most common design, the Newcomen design, wasted a lot of energy. Watt realized by adding a separate condenser, he could make the engine much more efficient. This</p>	<p>Invention (noun) /ɪnˈvenʃn/ - Something that has been created for the first time</p> <p>Encounter (verb) /ɪnˈkaʊntə(r)/ - Came across unexpectedly or for the first time</p> <p>Inefficient (adjective) /ˌɪnɪˈfɪʃnt/ - not doing a job well and not making the best use of time, money, energy, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● invent something ● a useful invention ● technological invention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● encounter difficulties/problems ● encounter something new <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● highly efficient ● energy-efficient ● inefficient design
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<p><u>breakthrough</u> came in 1765 and it revolutionised steam power.</p> <p>His improved steam engine, used less coal, worked faster and could be <u>adapted for multiple uses</u>.</p> <p>Impact on industry and society.</p> <p><u>The impact of Watt's invention was enormous.</u> Factories became more productive, mines <u>operated</u> more efficiently, and steam powered locomotives and ships followed soon after.</p> <p>His innovations changed everything, transportation, manufacturing, and even daily life.</p> <p>Watt as a businessman</p> <p>Interestingly, James Watt wasn't just an engineer, he was also a businessman. <u>Partnering with</u> Matthew Boulton, he helped spread steam technology across Britain and further afield. His name became so <u>iconic</u> that the unit of power, the watt, is named after him.</p>	<p>Breakthrough (noun) /'breɪkθruː/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A sudden, dramatic and important discovery <p>Adapted for multiple uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changed to suit different purposes <p>The impact ... was enormous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The effect was very large or significant <p>Partnering with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working together with someone <p>Iconic /aɪ 'kɒnɪk/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A scientific breakthrough • achieve a breakthrough • adapted version • be adapted for a new context • have an enormous impact (on sth) • make an impact (on sth) • partner with a company • partnership agreement • iconic figure • iconic image
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<p>But his story doesn't end there.</p> <p>Watt continued to invent and <u>refine</u> his ideas well into his later years, shaping the future of engineering and industry.</p> <p>So the next time you turn on a machine, travel by train, or even check your electricity bill, remember James Watt, the Scottish engineer who powered a revolution.</p> <p>That's all for today's episode of the Scottish English Podcast. If you have enjoyed the show, do subscribe and leave us a comment. What did you learn today? And if you want to keep improving your English, check out the transcript in the show notes.</p> <p>See you later.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Widely recognized and well-established <p>Refine (verb) /rɪˈfaɪn/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve something by making small changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refine a process • refine your skills
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