

The history of the hairdryer



Around 1900, women dried their hair by using vacuum cleaners! In early models, the front part of a *vacuum cleaner* sucked air in and the back part of the cleaner blew air out. The women attached the *hose* to the back of the vacuum cleaner, where air was blown out, and dried their hair.



In 1920, the first real hairdryer came on the market, but it was very large and heavy, and the hairdryer often became too hot.



In the 1930s, hairdryers heated by gas were introduced in beauty salons. But the gas-heated dryers were far too hot and *damaged* the women's hair. It also wasn't very healthy to breathe in the gas which *escaped* from the dryer.



It was only when plastic was introduced in the 1950s that the first really workable hairdryer was made. It consisted of a hand-held dryer connected to a pink plastic *bonnet* fitted over the woman's head.



Much has changed in the last 50 years: size, weight and noise levels are much lower. You can choose between a variety of different models – smaller ones for travelling or bigger ones with all sorts of attachments to style your hair in different ways.

<i>vacuum cleaner</i>	Staubsauger
<i>suck</i>	saugen
<i>hose</i>	Schlauch
<i>damage</i>	beschädigen
<i>escape</i>	entweichen
<i>bonnet</i>	Mütze, Haube

The inventor of the hairdryer

It's not very clear who invented the first hairdryer, as vacuum cleaners were used for quite a long time. Some sources tell us that Alexandre Godefoy invented the first electric hairdryer in 1890. In the 1920s, hand-held hairdryers were used in Germany, but it's not clear who invented them. One of the early trendsetters was General Electric's 1954 model. It had the motor inside the *fan*, which meant that it was smaller and didn't make a lot of noise.



fan Ventilator