

Shoe-fitting fluoroscope: A risky business

Have you ever had an X-ray?

Vocabulary

1. scientific 2. X-rays 3. device 4. radiation 5. fit 6. realized

True Story

In the early 1900s, shoe stores in North America and Europe used a machine called the shoe-fitting fluoroscope. This _____ used _____ to show the bones of a person's feet inside their shoes. The idea was to help customers find shoes that _____ better. However, it was more of a marketing tool than a real help for fitting shoes.

Using X-rays seemed _____, but it was dangerous. People did not know about the risks of _____ at the time. One expert said, "Don't talk to me about X-rays. I am afraid of them." Over time, people _____ the dangers, and by the 1950s, many places stopped using these machines. Today, they are mostly found in museums.

Quiz

1. What did the shoe-fitting fluoroscope use X-rays for?
2. Why was the machine considered dangerous?
3. When did people stop using these machines?
4. Where can you find these machines today?

True or False

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. The shoe-fitting fluoroscope was a real help for fitting shoes. | True False |
| 2. People knew about the dangers of X-rays in the early 1900s. | True False |
| 3. An expert said that he was scared of X-rays. | True False |

Conversation

A: Have you seen this new machine for shoe fitting?

B: Yes, it looks like something from a science lab!

A: I heard it uses X-rays to check your feet.

B: That sounds a bit scary, doesn't it?

A: Yeah, I hope it's safe to use.

B: Me too! I don't want glowing feet!

Discussion

1. Have you ever used an unusual machine in a store?
2. Do you think technology makes shopping easier?
3. What popular technology from the past is rarely used these days?