In the 1930’s, in Hungary, Ladislao Biro was getting fed up with his old-fashioned fountain pen. He was tired of the way it leaked and had to be endlessly refilled. Fiddling around in his workshop, Biro filled a pen with printer’s ink and on the tip of it he fashioned a little ball that picked up more ink as it rolled.

In England, Biro helped set up a factory to manufacture “high-altitude, non-leaking writing sticks” for the British Air Force. The factory was eventually taken over by Bic, a French company, which developed an even better and cheaper throw-away pen.

In America, following World War II, Milton Reynolds invented his own version of the ball-point pen. As a sales gimmick, he advertised it as the “pen that writes underwater.” To attract customers, he arranged a demonstration in the display window of a department store. While sitting in a tank of water, a demonstrator scribbled with a ball-point pen on white plastic. In one day, nearly 10,000 had been sold! The price: $12.50 apiece.
1. Read the graphic organizer below.

**How the Ballpoint Pen Was Invented**

**Step 1**
Biro filled a pen with printer’s ink and attached a ball to it.

**Step 2**

**Step 3**

**Step 4**
In one day, almost 10,000 pens had been sold at $12.50 each.

The graphic organizer above is missing two steps. Describe what should go in the blank spaces for Step 2 and Step 4.

Be sure to label your answer “Step 2” and “Step 3.”
2. “The factory was eventually taken over by Bic, a French company, which developed an even better and cheaper throw-away pen.

Which dictionary definition of company is used in the sentence above?

company (kuhm-puh-nee) n. 1) a guest or guests 2) a business 3) another person’s presence

A. definition 1  
B. definition 2  
C. definition 3

3. “He was tired of the way it leaked and had to be endlessly refilled.”

How does the prefix re- change the meaning of the word filled?

A. not filled  
B. filled more  
C. filled again  
D. filled before