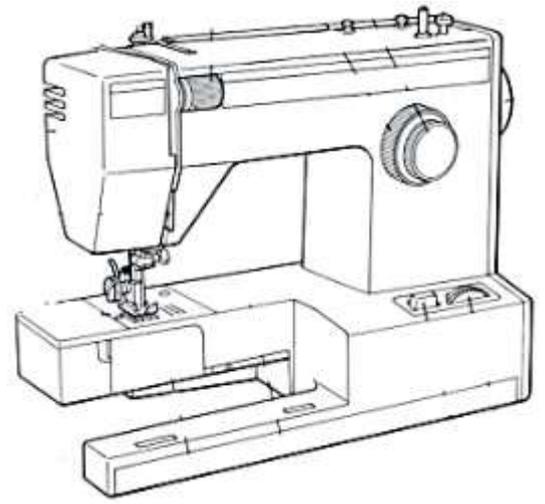


TWAM

Tools with a Mission



Mary's Sewing Group

The story begins

Mary decided she would start a sewing group to help the women in her church to learn a skill. She shared her vision with her Pastor and he shared it with the whole church. Everyone agreed Mary should go ahead, she applied to TWAM for six sewing machines and the church held a special gift day to raise the money needed to pay the shipping. Everyone was overjoyed when the machine turned up and the first ladies started their course.

The course was a great blessing and over the first four years Mary ran her course, she managed to train over 80 women. Mary worked so hard and kept the women busy every day training and using the machines, she even allowed the women to use the machines in the evening to make clothes to support themselves.

The sewing machines worked many hours every day in dry dusty conditions, and when it rained they sometimes got wet and damp. Mary did not worry about this, as the machines did not seem to mind. But after four years one of them stopped working, and a few months later another one seemed to jam up and even though the motor was working, would not sew. Mary was disappointed but reduced the number of ladies she was helping and continued.

The next year both her other machines also stopped working and Mary went back to the church to see if they would help her again. The church has just started a building project and told Mary, they would love to help her, but now they had to concentrate on the new church. Mary was forced to close down her sewing group.

Mary did so well, but her sewing group ended much sooner than she wanted.

- 1. Why do you think the sewing machines broke down?**
- 2. What do you think Mary could have done differently to keep her project going?**

The story changes to success

Mary fulfils her dream of running a sewing group for many years and helping lots of women

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The sewing machines worked many hours every day in dry dusty conditions, but Mary had found out how to look after her machines and regularly cleaned and oiled them. When it rained she made sure the machines did not get wet and were stored somewhere dry. But after four years one of them stopped working. This did not worry Mary as she knew that sewing machines that worked this hard would not last forever and had planned for this. Every month Mary had put a little money aside from the tuition fees she charged her students and had enough to order two more machines from TWAM. One to replace the broken machine and one to store ready for the next machine to breakdown.

Over the next five years Mary looked after all her machines and some lasted another year and one kept working for nine years. But after nine years all her machines had to be replaced, and by doing this Mary kept her sewing group going for many years.



Mary's dream of a Sewing Group succeeds

1. What did Mary do differently this time?
2. How did Mary manage to raise the shipping costs the second time?
3. What can you learn from Mary's story, that could help your project succeed?

If you would like to learn more about running a successful project you can download our

Running a successful project guide

From our website: www.applytotwam.uk

Tools with a Mission

2 Bailey Close, Hadleigh Road Industrial Estate, Ipswich, IP2 0UD UK

www.twam.uk www.applytotwam/uk

Registered charity number: 1104903 (England and Wales) SCO44069 (Scotland)

A company limited by guarantee and registered in England number: 0511457