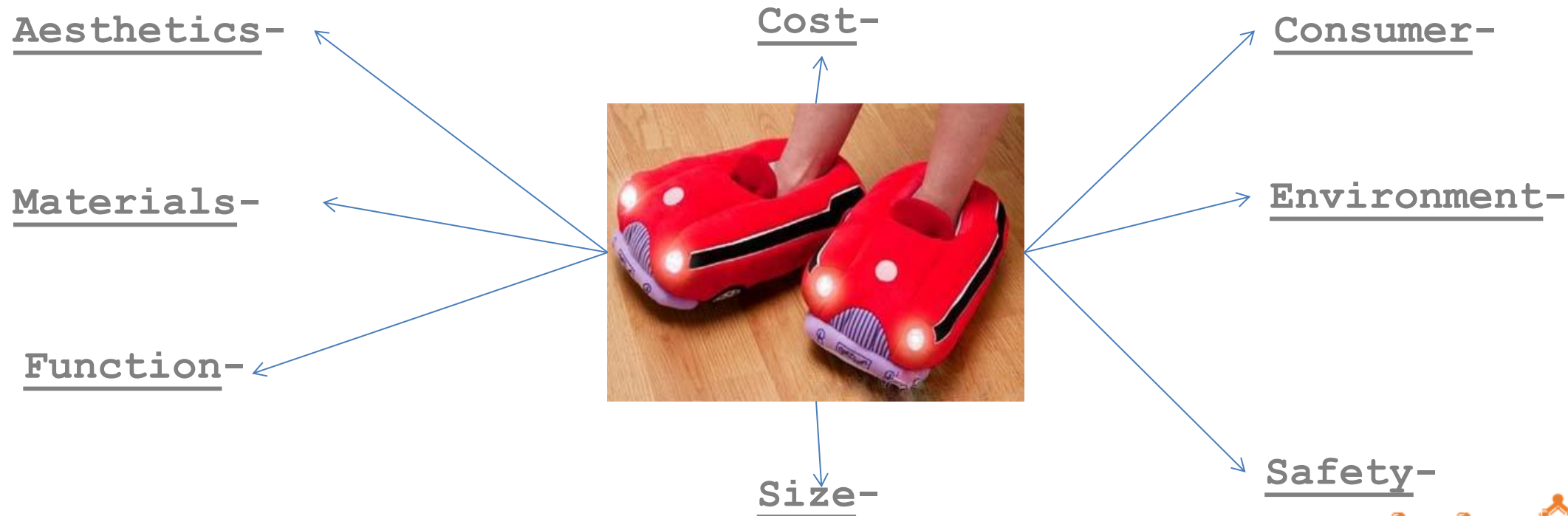# Specification

- The specification should be composed of simple, clear statements.
- If possible, refer to the research you have carried out so far. For example, "The colour scheme will be based on blue and red as these colours are the most popular - as seen in my questionnaire".
- Use ACCESS FM to construct a specification
- Each of the statements should help determine the final design of the product. For example, there may be a statement concerning the overall size or weight of the product. This clearly places limits on the design of the product.
- A specification is a list of goals that the final design must achieve.
- Specifications are an important part of designing because they provide a check list against which you can review your ideas as you are working.
- They also give you something against which to evaluate your ideas and your finished product.
- It is a list of statements the SPECIFICALLY state exactly what your design SHOULD achieve.

How to Write a Specification:

- Do **NOT** simple **DESCRIBE** an idea you might have in your head.
- The point of this is give you a clear list of targets that your product should be able to achieve.
- When you then start to develop your designs you can make sure your ideas meet these targets
- Remember the slippers lesson:

Aesthetics-

Cost-

Consumer-

Materials-

Environment-

Function-

Size-

Safety-

Specification Questions to ask?

Aesthetics-

- What do you intend your product to look like?
- What colours, styling, patterns etc etc do you intend to design your use.
- Why and how have made these decisions? Why will your product look like that, what did you research findings tell you?

Cost-

- What price range will your product fall into?
- Will it be expensive, cheap, mid range, if so why?
- What materials, processes and finishes will you use, does this reflect the cost?
- Does the cost reflect the quality of the product?
- Is the cost of your product a result of what manufacturing processes (mass produced, batched produced, one off) you will use to commercially produce it?

Consumer-

- Who do you intend your consumer to be?
- Look at the **Consumer Profile** research help sheet: age, gender, where they live, etc.
- Will your product be Ergonomically designed, if so why?

Environment-

How does the product effect the environment:
- When it will be made (manufacturing process): materials used, energy used
- When its being used, will it give off any emissions or pollution?
- When it is disposed of, will it be recyclable, will it be able to be reused?

Safety-

- How safe will the product be to use?
- What are the dangers of using your product (sharp edges, toxic paints, electric components, weight etc)?
- How will you make it safe for the intended user (example;. *"all electrical components will be housed in a waterproof casing"*)?
- How will you reduce the risk of injury?

Size-

- How big is the product **GENERALLY** going to be? For example: *"it will be pocket size so that it can be kept with the user at all times."*
- How big will certain parts of your product be?
- For example: *"the back support of my chair will be the correct size for the average 16 year old."*
- You probable haven't carried out anthropometric research yet so you don't need to say exactly what size it has to be.
- Will it be adjustable?

Materials-

- You may not know exactly what materials you will be using yet however you should have an idea of the sort of product you will make i.e. Cheap, low quality, high quality, expensive. This will have an effect on what type of materials you will use:
    - luxurious materials such as...
    - high quality materials such as...
    - cheap materials such as...
- You may also you the sorts of properties some materials will need to be. For example:
- Flexible materials such as...
- Waterproof materials such as...

Function-

- What will be the main functions for the product, what does it do **GIVE FULL DETAILS FOR THIS**?
- For example: *"the chair will allow the user to sit down at a desk comfortably. The chair will be adjustable to suit individual users i.e. the seat high and back rest. The chair will be able to move whilst the user is still seated. It will be foldable to be easily stored away when not in use. The chair will also be multi functional, it will also be used as an mp3 docking station with built in speakers."*