Simple Past

(Regular & Irregular verbs)

A) Fill In the gaps with the past forms of verbs.



The Clipper Race

It ① started (**start**) in 1996 and is the world's longest and hardest sailing challenge.

How did it start?

In 1969, the Englishman Sir Robin Knox-Johnston ② _____ (**be**) the first person to sail solo, non-stop round the world. It ③ _____ (**take**) him over 10 months. In the years after this amazing achievement, Sir Robin ④ _____ (**want**) more people to learn to sail, so he ⑤ _____ (**begin**) the famous *Clipper Round the World Yacht Race.*

The first race

The first race ⑥ _____ (**be**) in 1996, with eight 60-foot yachts. On 16 October, they all ⑦ _____ (**leave**) Plymouth, England and ⑧ _____ (**begin**) their long journey across the oceans. The route ⑨ _____ (**include**) the Galapagos, Hawaii and the Azores. The winning yacht, called Arial, finally ⑩ _____ (**arrive**) back in Plymouth nearly one year later, on 14 September 1997. The crew members ⑪ _____ (**feel**) completely exhausted. 'We rarely ⑫ _____ (**sleep**) properly,' ⑬ _____ (**say**) crew member, Elizabeth Bluck. 'It ⑭_____ (**be**) very cold, very wet, and very exciting.'

The race today

It's expensive to take part in the Clipper Race, but it's very popular. This is because all kinds of people want a new and special challenge in their lives. Last year, nearly 20,000 people ⑮ _____ (**apply**) to do it. Bob Baker, a lorry driver who ⑯ _____ (**do**) it a few years ago, ⑰ _____ (**say**), 'I always ⑱ _____ (**think**) that yachting ⑲ _____ (**be**) a rich man's sport, but it's not at all'.

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