

The Michelin Guides

In 1889 two brothers, Andre and Edouard Michelin,¹ started (start) the Michelin company in France. They _____² (develop) a new tyre for bicycles and then they _____³ (make) and _____⁴ (sell) tyres for cars. In 1900 there _____⁵ (be) about 3,000 cars in France and people _____⁶ (want) to travel around the country. But travelling by car in those days _____⁷ (not be) easy. People _____⁸ (not have) road maps so they _____⁹ (can not) plan their journeys and they _____¹⁰ (not know) where they _____¹¹ (can) find service stations or restaurants .

Of course, the Michelin brothers _____¹² (want) people to travel more because they _____¹³ (need) to sell more tyres. They _____¹⁴ (write) the first Michelin guide in 1900, but the famous star system _____¹⁵ (not start) until 1926.

Michelin now sells over 20 million guide books and maps in more than 70 countries. There are only 81 three-star restaurants in the world and 26 of them are in France.

