

# Instituto Universitario de Caldas

## “Simple past reading”

1. Complete the story by using the past form of the verbs in parentheses.

### The Invention of the Telephone



Alexander Graham Bell was born on March 3, 1847 in Edinburgh, Scotland. He invented the telephone.

Alexander Graham Bell \_\_\_\_\_  
(invent) the telephone. He \_\_\_\_\_  
(be) a teacher of the deaf in Boston. At night, he \_\_\_\_\_ (work) on experiments using a telegraph. Once when the metal in the telegraph \_\_\_\_\_ (stick), Bell's assistant \_\_\_\_\_ (pluck) the metal to loosen it.

Bell, who \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in another room, \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) the sound in his receiver. He \_\_\_\_\_ (understand) that the vibrations of the metal had traveled down the electric current to the receiver. He \_\_\_\_\_ (continue) to work on this idea.

March 10, 1876 \_\_\_\_\_ (be) the first time Alexander Graham Bell successfully \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) words over a telephone line. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) about to test a new transmitter when he \_\_\_\_\_ (spill) some battery acid on his clothes. He \_\_\_\_\_ (cry) out to his assistant who \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in another room, “Mr. Watson, come here! I want you!” Watson \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) every word clearly on the telephone and \_\_\_\_\_ (rush) into the room.

Bell \_\_\_\_\_ (demonstrate) his invention to many people. Over time, more and more telephone lines were installed, and people \_\_\_\_\_ (begin) to use the invention in their homes and businesses.

Taken from success with reading comprehension (Scholastic 3)