

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 _____
(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)