

Simple Past

Activity: Grammar Practice

Complete the text with the verbs in the past.

The man behind KFC

Harland Sanders _____ (be) born in the CSA in 1890, but his childhood _____ (be/not) a happy one. His father _____ (die) when he was only six. His mother _____ (not/have) much money, so she _____ (need) to find a job. She _____ (go) to work in a shirt factory and Harland _____ (stay) at home to look after his younger brother and sister. That _____ (be) when he first _____ (learn) to cook.



He _____ (leave) home when he _____ (be) twelve and _____ (work) on a nearby farm. After that, he _____ (have) a lot of different jobs and in 1930 he _____ (become) the manager of a service station in Corbin, Kentucky. He _____ (start) cooking meals for hungry travellers who _____ (stop) at the service station, and soon people _____ (come) only for the food. Harland _____ (can/not) serve everybody because the place _____ (be) too small. So, he _____ (decide) to move to a 142-seat restaurant across the street, where he _____ (can) serve all his customers. Over the next nine years, he _____ (develop) the secret chicken recipe that _____ (make) him famous.

The first official Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant _____ (not/open) until August 1952 and by 1964 there _____ (be) more than 600 KFCs in North America. That year, Sanders _____ (sell) the company for \$2 million but he _____ (continue) to work as KFC's public spokesman and _____ (visit) restaurants all over the world. He _____ (travel) 250,000 miles every year until he _____ (die) in 1980, aged 90. Six years later, PepsiCo _____ (buy) KFC for \$840 million.

