

## PAST SIMPLE – regular/ irregular verbs

### Nikola Tesla (1856-1943) Croatian Inventor

Nikola Tesla \_\_\_\_\_ (be) born on **10<sup>th</sup> July 1856** in **Smiljan**, small village in **Croatia** (then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire). His father \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a Serbian Orthodox priest and his mother \_\_\_\_\_ (take) care of the family's farm. Nikola \_\_\_\_\_ (say) that he \_\_\_\_\_ (must) to thank her for his creative abilities and near photographic memory - he \_\_\_\_\_ (can) memorize entire books and recite them at will. Tesla \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) **eight languages**: Serbian, Latin, German, Hungarian, Italian, Czech, French and English. He \_\_\_\_\_ (use) to say "I'm proud of my Serbian origin and my Croatian homeland".

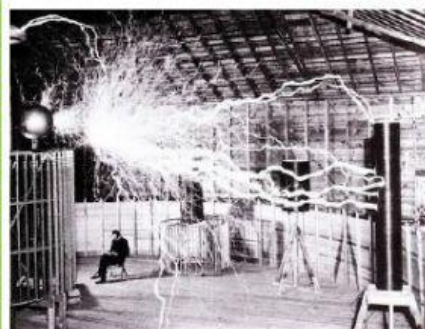


*Nikola Tesla*

When Tesla's brother Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ (die) in an accident, it \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a shock to the 7-year-old Nikola. He then \_\_\_\_\_ (start) to have **visions**, important also in his later life.

Tesla \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the gymnasium in Carlstadt (Karlovac, Croatia). When performing calculus equations in his head his teachers \_\_\_\_\_ (think) he \_\_\_\_\_ (be) cheating. He \_\_\_\_\_ (love) mathematics and science. Tesla's father, however insisted that he enter the priesthood. After his recovery from cholera father \_\_\_\_\_ (send) him to the Polytechnic school in Graz, Austria in 1875. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) excellent there. He \_\_\_\_\_ (begin) each day at 3:00 a.m. and \_\_\_\_\_ (work) until 11:00 p.m..

In school Tesla \_\_\_\_\_ (be) obsessed with a new **direct current (DC)** dynamo as he \_\_\_\_\_ (know)



better solution: electric power created by **alternating current (AC)**.

At the age of 28, working for Edison, he \_\_\_\_\_ (move) from France to New York City with only four cents in his pocket. One day Tesla \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) Edison that he \_\_\_\_\_ (can) improve his motors and generators. Edison \_\_\_\_\_ (promise) him 50.000 dollars. After several months Tesla \_\_\_\_\_ (improve) the motor but when he \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) about payment, Edison \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) him that he \_\_\_\_\_ (be) only joking. Tesla immediately \_\_\_\_\_ (resign).

Later he \_\_\_\_\_ (found) the *Tesla Electric Company* and \_\_\_\_\_ (patent) his AC motors.

After many years of debate in so called '**War of the Currents**' Tesla \_\_\_\_\_ (demonstrate) at **1893 World Fair in Chicago**, the safety of AC power with his new **phosphorescent lighting** and his gigantic '**Tesla coils**'. It \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a key event in the history of electricity.



Tesla and Westinghouse with the *General Electric* company \_\_\_\_\_ (create) **the first modern power station** at **Niagara Falls**.

Tesla also \_\_\_\_\_ (make) important research in radiant energy (later called **X-ray**), and on the fundamentals of **radio**.

Tesla \_\_\_\_\_ (have) an eccentric private life. He never \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep) for more than two hours at a time. He \_\_\_\_\_ (live) alone in a hotel suite. He also \_\_\_\_\_ (have) several obsessions: a phobia of germs (when meeting people, he

\_\_\_\_\_ (not want) to shake hands), round objects (especially jewelry), the number three and also feeding pigeons... Tesla \_\_\_\_\_ (say) this behavior \_\_\_\_\_ (make) his concentration on the experiments better.

On 7<sup>th</sup> January 1943, at the age of 86, Nikola Tesla \_\_\_\_\_ (die) in New York a poor and reclusive man. He \_\_\_\_\_ (had) 700 patents. His legacy, however, continues to move on.

