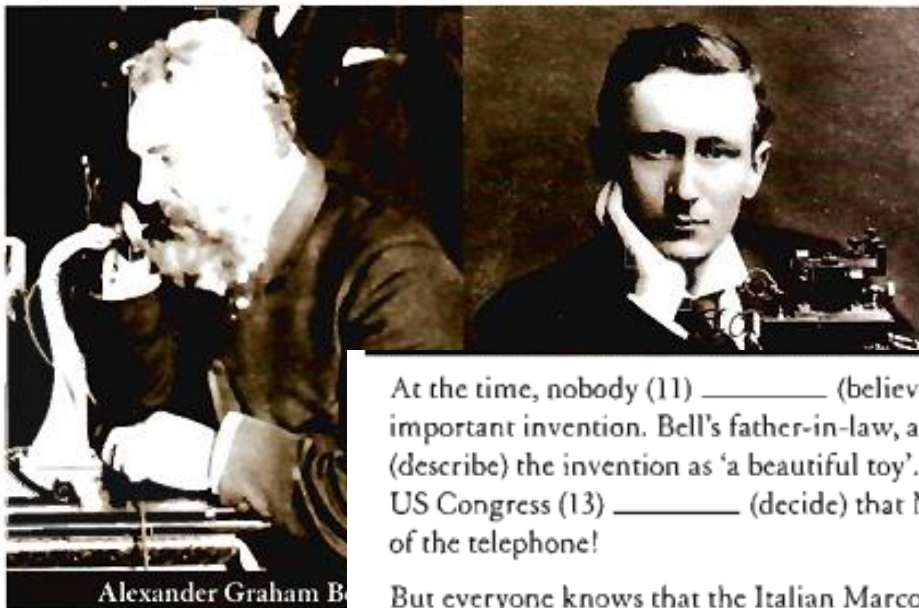


The Age of Information

Who really invented the telephone and the radio?

Many schoolchildren learn that the Scotsman Alexander Graham Bell (1) _____ (invent) the telephone in 1876. But the real inventor (2) _____ (be) Antonio Meucci, a poor Italian American. He (3) _____ (share) a workshop with Bell in the 1860s, and (4) _____ (make) a 'talking telegraph' for his wife who was ill in bed, so that she (5) _____ (can) call him when she (6) _____ (want) something. But Meucci never (7) _____ (take) his idea to the US Patent Office, because he was too poor to pay the \$250 that he (8) _____ (need). So on February 14th 1876 Alexander Graham Bell (9) _____ (take) the invention to the Patent Office instead. Just two hours later another inventor, Elisha Gray (10) _____ (arrive) with the same idea – too late!



Alexander Graham Bell

At the time, nobody (11) _____ (believe) that the telephone was an important invention. Bell's father-in-law, also a scientist, (12) _____ (describe) the invention as 'a beautiful toy'. And it was 2002 before the US Congress (13) _____ (decide) that Meucci was the true inventor of the telephone!

But everyone knows that the Italian Marconi (14) _____ (invent) the radio, right? Wrong. Actually, Guglielmo Marconi (15) _____ (steal) his great idea from Nikola Tesla, a Croatian scientist. Tesla (16) _____ (write) an article in 1893 and in it he (17) _____ (describe) his important new invention – the radio.

But just two years later, Marconi (18) _____ (take) the idea to the US Patent Office and soon (19) _____ (begin) to sell it. In 1909 he even (20) _____ (win) a Nobel Prize for his invention.


In 1943 Nikola Tesla (21) _____ (die) in New York, a poor man. That year, the US Congress (22) _____ (decide) that Nikola Tesla was 'the true father of the radio'.

c Complete the text with the Past simple forms. Listen again and check.

Pronunciation

- T7.6** Look at the transcript on page 169. Listen and count the number of syllables you hear.
worked 1 studied 2
- Notice that only verbs that end in the sounds /t/ or /d/ have an 'extra' syllable in the Past simple.
want-ed wait-ed
need-ed decid-ed
- T7.7** Listen to eight pairs of sentences. Write 1 if you hear the Past simple first, and 2 if you hear the Past simple second.

View

3a  Watch the video about Mark Zuckerberg and number the things (1–6) in the order you see them.

- Harvard University
- a magazine cover
- Mark Zuckerberg with Barack Obama
- Mark Zuckerberg's first website
- the Queen of England's Facebook page
- Silicon Valley, California

b Watch again and complete the fact file below with the information in the box. (There is some extra information.)

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1 million | 10 million | the British Prime Minister |
| Harvard | Google | philosophy |
| psychology | 800 million | 80 million |
| the Queen of England | 2004 | 2006 |
| \$5 billion | \$15 billion | Yahoo |

FACT FILE



PERSONAL DETAILS

- Name: Mark Zuckerberg
- Born: 1984 in White Plains, New York
- Studied _____ and computer science at _____ University
- Moved to Silicon Valley in _____

FACEBOOK FACTS

First website: thefacebook.com. It had _____ users after a few months.

Number of users worldwide: _____ million

Number of users in UK: _____

Most famous user in UK: _____

_____ tried to buy Facebook for \$1 billion.

Microsoft tried to buy Facebook in 2007 for _____.

World view

4a Look at the statements below. Tick the ones you agree with and cross the ones you disagree with.

- 👉 People nowadays spend too much of their time on social networking sites.
- 👉 Facebook helps us to understand people from other cultures.
- 👉 Social networking sites are only there to make money.
- 👉 Social networking is the future ... we can't live without it!
- 👉 I admire people like Mark Zuckerberg more than sportsmen or politicians.
- 👉 Social networking sites are dangerous – especially for young people.

5a Work in pairs. Look at the names of other important people of the Information Age in the box below. What do you know about them?

Tim Berners-Lee

Bill Gates

Jimmy Wales

Sergey Brin

Ashley Qualls