EXERCISES ON PAST TENSES IN E4PS

PAST SIMPLE

B **The Dell story**

Complete each paragraph with the verbs in the boxes.

have	say	begin	introduce	open

In 1984 Michael Dell .....[1] his computer business at the University of Texas in Austin. In 1986 his company .....[2] the 286-12 machine, which the magazine *PC Week* .....[3] 'may become the next industry benchmark'. The following year he .....[4] an office in the United Kingdom and soon .....[5] offices in 33 countries.

total	decide	employ	run	go

In the summer of 1988, Dell .....[6] public. By now the firm .....[7] 650 people and sales .....[8] over $159 million. Then two years later employees .....[9] to celebrate 1 April by hanging a giant inflatable gorilla outside company headquarters, the first of many publicity stunts. On another occasion the CEO .....[10] around a stadium carrying the Olympic torch.

become	expand	launch	overtake	stay	step down	win

In 1991 Dell .....[11] its first notebook PC and in the same year .....[12] the first PC maker to install applications software free for its clients. The company .....[13] at a rapid rate with subsidiaries opening in Belgium, Finland, Luxembourg, Norway and Spain. In 1999 Dell .....[14] Compaq to become the largest seller of PCs in the United States with $25 billion in revenue reported in January 2000. On 4 March 2004, Michael Dell .....[15] as CEO but .....[16] on as chairman of the board. The company is now the leading PC provider in the US and second worldwide. In 2007 Dell .....[17] more than 200 product awards.

4.4 Complete this article by putting the verbs into the past simple. Some are irregular.

Samsung: from dried fish to high tech

In 1938 Byung-Chull Lee (1) ___started___ (start) a business in Korea called Samsung. He (2) _____ (sell) vegetables and dried fish to China. Ten years later he (3) _____ (have) his own manufacturing and sales operations, and the business (4) _____ (grow) quickly. Over the next few decades Samsung (5) _____ (buy) several insurance companies and department stores.

In the 1970s Samsung (6) _____ (invest) in heavy industries like chemicals and shipbuilding, but then in the 1980s they (7) _____ (begin) to focus more on technology and electronic products. In 1987 Kun-Hee Lee (8) _____ (take) the place of his father as Chairman of the company. In 1988 he (9) _____ (announce) the 'Second Foundation' of the company, directing Samsung towards becoming a world-class 21st century corporation.

B Complete the passage about the *Financial Times*, choosing active or passive forms of the verbs in brackets.



The *FT* was launched[1] (launch) as the London Financial Guide on 9 January 1888 by Horatio Bottomley. Soon after, on 13 February the same year, it .....[2] (rename) the *Financial Times*. It .....[3] (begin) as a four-page journal and .....[4] (read) by the financial community of the City of London.

In 1893 the *FT* .....[5] (print) in salmon pink for the first time – a smart move that .....[6] (make) it different from its nearest competitor, the *Financial News*. In 1993 this change .....[7] (commemorate) by a single white-paper edition.

In 1945 a decision .....[8] (take) by Brendan Bracken, who .....[9] (own) the *Financial News*, to merge the two papers. The *FT* .....[10] (grow) in size and .....[11] (establish) a network of journalists all over the world.

On 1 January 1979 the first *FT*.....[12] (print) outside the UK, in Frankfurt, and in 1986 the paper's circulation .....[13] (pass) the 250,000 mark. In 1995 the *Financial Times* website .....[14] (publish) on-line.

Since then, with print sites in many major cities across five continents, the *FT* has become a truly global business newspaper. Because it has many journalists in Europe, the *FT* .....[15] (consider) to be the authority on European corporate news, and in 2008 it .....[16] (given) three newspaper-of-the-year awards.

FT

PRESENT PERFECT

6.3 Complete this email by putting the verbs into the present perfect. There are affirmative, negative and question forms.

Subject construction of new line for Bucharest metro

Jim – (1) _have you heard_ (you/hear) about the plans to extend the Bucharest metro? The European Union (2) _____ (announce) that they will provide funding for another line. All construction companies are invited to make a bid. Several points occur to me:

1. Our big competitors like Alstom and Bechtel (3) _____ (not/make) any public statements yet, but I'm sure they will be interested.

2. What about us? Should we put in our own bid? I (4) _____ (prepare) a short report with my own ideas. It's attached to this email. Let me know what you think.

3. It would be good to talk to Dimitrie about this, but he (5) _____ (not/reply) to my last few emails. (6) _____ (you/see) him recently?

Anyway, my secretary will schedule a meeting on this issue at the end of March. Please discuss the matter with your team members before then.

7.1 Complete each sentence with one of these time adverbs: ~~*already*~~, *ever*, *for*, *just*, *never*, *since*, *so far*, *yet*.

1 The project is going very well – we've _already_ finished phase one.
2 I haven't finished the July sales report _____
3 Sorry, I've been really busy – I've been in a meeting _____ nine o'clock.
4 I'm a bit nervous – I've _____ spoken to so many people before.
5 We've known each other _____ more than twenty years.
6 We've had 120 registrations for the conference _____ , and the maximum is 150.
7 Have you _____ eaten sushi?
8 I've _____ heard about your promotion! Congratulations!

7.3 Complete the sentences with *for* or *since*.

1 I've been at KPMG _____ nearly a year, _____ January in fact.
2 I haven't heard from her _____ the beginning of the month. So _____ the last few weeks I haven't been able to do anything.
3 I've known Rafik _____ a long time, _____ we were at university together.

PAST SIMPLE AND PRESENT PERFECT

8.2 Complete this article by putting three verbs into the past simple and three into the present perfect.

Nike: the brand that keeps growing

An accountant and a sports coach (1) *started* (start) a small shoe company called Blue Ribbon in 1964. In 1971 it (2) _____ (change) its name to Nike, and since then it (3) _____ (become) one of the world's most successful brands. Originally Nike (4) _____ (be) only associated with basketball, but recently it (5) _____ (expand) into new markets like football. Now Nike (6) _____ (start) buying other fashion brands that are not even connected with sport.

B **Market news in brief**

These announcements were read out today during a radio programme called *Business in Action*. Complete each one with these verbs in either the past simple or the present perfect.

issue	launch (x2)	announce	slump

Cable & Wireless .....[1] its agreement for a £1bn pension fund deal.

Shares in Marks and Spencer, Britain's biggest retailer, ...[2] by more than 10% in the last 24 hours after the firm .....[3] a profits warning.

Asda, the supermarket chain owned by Wal-Mart, ...[4] a non-food arm, Asda Direct, in a bid to grab market share from rivals Tesco and Argos. The website, which offers more than 9,000 products, will be accompanied by a print run of 3m catalogues.

Tesco .....[5] Tesco Direct two years ago and now offers about 12,000 products online and about 7,000 in its catalogue.