

That's Interesting!



A worksheet for adults to practise reading, writing, spelling and numbers.

Events celebrated this year



150 years ago, in March 1876, the first ever telephone call was made in Canada. This followed the invention of the telephone by scientist and teacher Alexander Graham Bell.

Bell was born in Scotland but moved soon after with his family to Canada. His mother was deaf and this is said to have been why Bell had a keen interest in sound and speech. He worked as a teacher with deaf people. He was also a scientist and worked on many experiments to find a way to send the human voice over long distances.

Along with his assistant, Thomas Watson, he spent many years trying to invent a device that a person could speak into at one end, that would turn the voice into sound wave signals that would run through an electric wire. Then a receiver at the other end would turn those signals back into the human voice that could then be heard by a person many miles away.

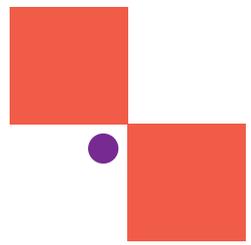
On 10 March 1876, Bell was finally successful. He spoke the famous words to his assistant: "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you".

Watson heard him clearly through the device. This was the first ever successful telephone call. Bell's invention changed communication forever. Instead of waiting hours or days or even weeks for a message, people could now talk instantly across great distances. I wonder what Alexander Graham Bell would think of the mobile phones we have today.



**Alexander
Graham Bell**

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RTÉ Radio celebrates 100 years

Here in Ireland, RTÉ (Raidió Teilifís Éireann) Radio is celebrating 100 years of broadcasting. On 1 January 1926, at 7.45pm, the first ever live radio programme was broadcast in Ireland.

The broadcast was delivered from the top floor of a small post office in Dublin. The radio station was known as 2RN. The first person to talk on Irish radio was the Irish president at the time, Douglas Hyde. Two years later the radio station was moved to the GPO (General Post Office) on O'Connell Street in Dublin where it remained for almost 50 years before moving to Donnybrook in Dublin 4. It was almost 40 years after radio broadcasting began before RTÉ television was set up.

Only a small number of houses in Ireland had a radio, or a wireless as it was known, at the time. Often only one house in a village or parish had a radio. It was common for large numbers of neighbours to gather on a Sunday in the home of the radio owner to listen to sports broadcasts and music radio programmes.



GPO on
O'Connell Street

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Singer, Dolly Parton is 80

Famous country and western singer, Dolly Parton is celebrating her 80th birthday this year. Dolly Parton was born on 19 January 1946, in Tennessee, America. She grew up in a small house as one of 11 brothers and sisters. Her childhood was full of music and she began singing in church at a young age. She also sang on local radio shows.

Dolly moved to Nashville after finishing school. Nashville is known as the home of country music. Dolly soon became known as a talented songwriter and singer. She is now regarded as one of the most successful female country singers ever. Over the years, she has performed all over the world and has written hundreds of songs including classics like "Jolene," "9 to 5", and "I Will Always Love You." She has also acted in many films.

She has won many awards but one of the achievements she is most proud of is the charity she set up in 1995, Dolly's Imagination Library.

This is an organisation that posts out books every month to children aged from birth to 5 years, free of charge. The aim of this is to encourage reading, learning and a love of books among children as they grow.

Dolly set up the organisation as a tribute to her father who never learned to read. Dolly said, "He was the smartest man I have ever known but I know in my heart his inability to read probably kept him from fulfilling all of his dreams".

She started it in her home state of Tennessee and later in all parts of America and Canada. It is now operating in 5 countries across the world including Ireland. It began in Ireland in 2019 in Tallaght, Dublin and later in Cork city.

Since 1995, the organisation has posted books to more than 3 million children. Before he died her father told her that setting up this charity for children's learning was one of the best things she had ever done.



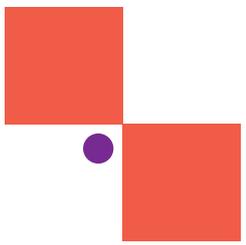
Dolly Parton

Image source: Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cherie A. Thurlby, USAF, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Winners of our Christmas Competition

Well done to Pat and Adam who were the lucky winners in our Christmas Competition.

They have both received their prizes.



Adding "ed" to words ending in y

When we want to use an action word in the past tense, we usually add the letters **ed** to the word.

Example: I **play** the guitar now. Years ago, I **played** the piano.

When you want to add "ed" to words ending in y:

- **Step 1: Check to see what letter comes before y in the word.**
- **Step 2: If the letter before y in the word is a vowel, then just add "ed" with no change (vowels are a e i o u, all the other letters are called consonants).**
- **Example 1** In the word "play", **a** is the letter before y and this is a **vowel**.
For words with a vowel before the "y" just add "ed" with no change:
play / played enjoy / enjoyed
- **Example 2** In the word "cry", **r** is the letter before y and it is **NOT** a vowel.
Here we take away y and put in ied.
cry / **cried** marry / **married** reply / **replied**

Exception: Say pay lay These words ending in y are different.

Here **we take away y** and put in **id** instead.

Say / said pay / paid lay / laid

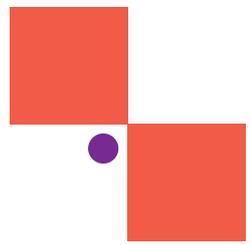
Add "ed"



Add **ed** to the following words. (The first one is done for you.)

- **(reply)** I reply to all my letters. Yesterday I **replied** to the invitation.
- **(stay)** I like to stay in hotels. Last year I _____ in an apartment.
- **(rely)** We rely on each other. When I was young, I _____ on my mother.
- **(tidy)** I always tidy my room. Last week I _____ the sitting room.
- **(employ)** I employ a lot of people. Last year I only _____ ten people.
- **(delay)** Please do not delay calling me. Last week our plane was _____ .
- **(hurry)** I do not like to hurry. Yesterday I _____ to the shop before it closed.
- **(marry)** They plan to marry soon. Last week my two friends got _____ .
- **(dry)** I like to dry my washing outdoors. I _____ my hands with a towel.
- **(pay)** I like to pay my bills every month. Last week I _____ my phone bill.
- **(try)** I always try my best. Last year I _____ to give up chocolate.
- **(copy)** Children often copy older people. She _____ my homework.
- **(apply)** I will apply for a new job. I _____ for a job in a café last week.
- **(fry)** I do not like to fry my food. I ate a _____ egg for breakfast.
- **(worry)** Try not to worry. I was _____ when I did not hear from you.
- **(enjoy)** I hope you enjoy the show. I really _____ meeting you last night.
- **(say)** What did you say? She _____ that she will be late arriving.

Maths - Time and distance



1.

New York time is 5 hours behind Irish time.

A flight to New York from Ireland takes 6 hours.

My flight leaves Shannon Airport at 3pm Irish time.

What time will it be in New York when I arrive?

2.

My car uses 8 litres of petrol to travel 100 km (kilometre).

a. How many litres of petrol will I need to travel

50 km = _____

150 km = _____

250 km = _____

b. If I drive from Limerick to Dublin, which is a journey of 200 km:

How many litres of petrol will I use?

If petrol is €1.75 per litre. How much will the petrol cost me?

3.

Sam cycles 20 km in one hour.

a. How long will it take him to cycle 50 km?

b. How far will he travel in

$\frac{1}{2}$ an hour = _____

15 minutes = _____

45 minutes = _____

(Tip: remember there are 60 minutes in 1 hour)

4.

Mary left home at 9.30am and drove the 20-minute journey to town. She spent:

- 40 minutes shopping
- 15 minutes at the bank
- one hour and a half getting her hair done
- an hour having lunch with a friend

She then drove back home.

What time did she arrive home?

Answers

Q1. 4pm, Q2. a. 4L, 12L, 20L, b. 16 L, €28
Q3. a. 2.5 hours, b. 10km, 5 km, 15 km,
Q4. 1.35 pm

