1 Complete the sentences with the correct past simple form of the verbs in brackets.

Many people say that Ada Lovelace ¹_____ (be) the first ever computer programmer. She was born in 1815 and ²_____ (begin) to get interested in mathematics when she was a child. As a young adult, she ³_____ (meet) Charles Babbage, another mathematician. He ⁴_____ (build) a large machine for doing maths (one of the first computers), and Ada and Babbage ⁵_____ (become) friends. She ⁶_____ (read) a lot about the machine and also ⁷_____ (make) her own notes about it. She ⁸_____ (think) a lot about the future of computers. This was over a hundred years before people started using them.

2 Complete the sentences with the past simple form of the verbs below.

begin   build   buy   find   have   read   send   speak

1 A million people _____ a PC at home.

2 Scientists _____ to use the World Wide Web.

3 People _____ the first iPhone from Apple.

4 People first _____ information using a new website called Google.

5 People first _____ to each other on a mobile phone.

6 Mark Zuckerberg and some friends _____ the website Facebook.

7 People _____ books and watched movies on iPads for the first time.

8 Ray Tomlinson _____ the first email.

3 **SPEAKING**   Work in pairs. Match the events in exercise 2 with the years below. Then cover the information and try to remember what happened in each year.

1971	
1973	
1980	
1989	
1998	
2004	
2007	
2010	

7B Past simple (affirmative): irregular

Aims: To review and practise past simple forms of irregular verbs.

Time: 10–15 minutes

Materials: 1 handout for each student

Exercise 1

- Give each student a handout and ask them to work individually.
- Tell students to read the text quickly. Ask: *Who was Charles Babbage?* (a mathematician)
- Ask them to complete the text with the past simple form of the verbs in brackets.
- Check answers with the class.

KEY

1 was **2** began **3** met **4** built **5** became **6** read **7** made **8** thought

Exercise 2

- Students work individually or in pairs to read through all the sentences before trying to complete the gaps.
- Tell the students to be careful as some of the verbs may go with more than one sentence, but others won't.
- Check answers with the class.

KEY

1 had **2** began **3** bought **4** found **5** spoke **6** built **7** read **8** sent

Exercise 3

- Students work in pairs. If you have access to the internet in class, you could ask students to try and find the answers on the web. If not, ask students to guess what they think is correct, and then discuss the answers as a class.
- If you have internet access in class, you could also ask each pair to find another interesting fact about the history of computing and write a question about it for the rest of the class.
- Once students have found or discussed the answers, go through them together.
- Finally, ask students to turn over their handout and test their memory on what happened in certain years.

KEY

1971	Ray Tomlinson sent the first email.
1973	People first spoke to each other on a mobile phone.
1980	A million people had a PC at home.
1989	Scientists began to use the World Wide Web.
1998	People first found information using a new website called Google.
2004	Mark Zuckerberg and some friends built the website Facebook.
2007	People bought the first iPhone from Apple.
2010	People read books and watched movies on iPads for the first time.