

Your English No. 49 – Inventing a Solar Pump (Part One) Action Words In CVs – A Story – Pair Work Sheet

First paragraph:

One student is the “teacher”. Read this part to your partner. Be sure to pronounce the past tense ending <ed> of regular verbs correctly: /d/, /t/ or /ɪd/.

“A woman engineer is speaking about her work for a humanitarian organization”

Two years ago I invented a special solar pump for a very dry area in the Sahara desert. The pumps that another firm had *installed* in the past *produced* a very slow flow of water, so I *conceived* a different model and then *designed* its various parts. I *assembled* the system, and we *tested* it in our lab. I *compiled* the results and *analyzed* them carefully.

Now read this same part to your partner leaving pauses for him/her to repeat. Be sure you pronounce the past tense endings of verbs correctly. If in doubt ask your teacher.

Two years ago / I invented a special solar pump / for a very dry area / in the Sahara desert. / The pumps / that another firm had *installed* / in the past / *produced* a very slow flow of water, / so I *conceived* a different model / and then *designed* its various parts. / I *assembled* the system, / and we *tested* it in our lab. / I *compiled* the results / and *analyzed* them carefully.

Ask your partner the questions below. (Your partner should try to answer in complete sentences and use as many as possible of the words in the answers that followed, which are given in the recording. In case of problems, give him/her some hints.)

1. How long ago did she invent a special solar pump? - She invented it two years ago.
2. What was wrong with the pump another firm had installed? - It produced a very slow flow of water.
3. What did she conceive? - She conceived a different model.
4. What did she design? - She designed the various parts of the pump.
5. Where did they test the system? - They tested the system in her lab.
6. What did they do when they had compiled the results? - They analyzed them carefully.

Second paragraph: Switch—one student reads the 2nd paragraph of the story.

With my team of assistants, we *revised* the drawings, *improved* the various mechanisms, *performed* new tests and *measured* the effectiveness of the new design. When we had *remodeled* the original pump, we *conducted* new tests and *verified* the results. We saw the water flow had *increased* considerably.

Now read this same part to your partner leaving pauses for him/her to repeat. Be sure you pronounce the past tense endings of verbs correctly. If in doubt ask your teacher.

Your English 51 Inventing a Solar Pump” Part One (Pair work)

With my team of assistants, / we *revised* the drawings, / *improved* the various mechanisms, / *performed* new tests / and *measured* the effectiveness / of the new design. When we had *remodeled* / the original pump, / we *conducted* new tests / and *verified* the results. / We saw the water flow / had *increased* considerably.

Ask your partner the questions below. (Your partner should try to answer in complete sentences and use as many as possible of the words in the answers that followed, which are given in the recording. In case of problems, give him/her some hints.)

1. What did they do with the drawings? - They revised the drawings.
2. What did they do with the various mechanisms? - They improved the various mechanisms.
3. What did they perform? - They performed new tests.
4. What did they measure about the new design? - They measured its effectiveness.
5. What had they done to the original pump? - They had remodeled it.
6. What did they conduct? - They conducted new tests.
7. What did they verify? - They verified the results.
8. What had happened to the water flow? - The water flow had increased considerably.

Third paragraph: *Switch roles—one student reads the 3rd paragraph of the story.*

We had now *finished* our study, and it was high time we *initiated* a feasible project. But first we *evaluated* the costs and *researched* possible partners on the Internet. This *took* only a few weeks, as we had already *networked* a lot when working on other projects.

Now read this same part to your partner leaving pauses for him/her to repeat. Be sure you pronounce the past tense endings of verbs correctly. If in doubt ask your teacher.

We had now *finished* our study, / and it was high time / we *initiated* a feasible project. / But first we *evaluated* the costs / and *researched* possible partners / on the Internet. / This *took* only a few weeks, / as we had already *networked* a lot / when working on other projects.

Ask your partner the questions below. (Your partner should try to answer in complete sentences and use as many as possible of the words in the answers that followed, which are given in the recording. In case of problems, give him/her some hints.)

1. What did they do when they had finished their study? - They initiated a feasible project.
2. What did they do first? - First they evaluated the costs.
3. How did they find possible partners? - They researched them on the Internet.
4. Did it take a long time? - No, it took only a few weeks.
5. Why didn't it take a long time? - They had already networked a lot when working on other projects.

If you want to perfect your oral grammar, go to the series “QualityTime-ESL Podcasts” with free oral podcasts.