

32

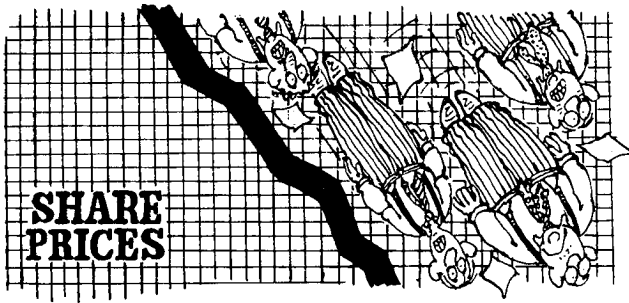
The conditions for change

A When did it happen and why?

■ Levi Strauss made the first jeans



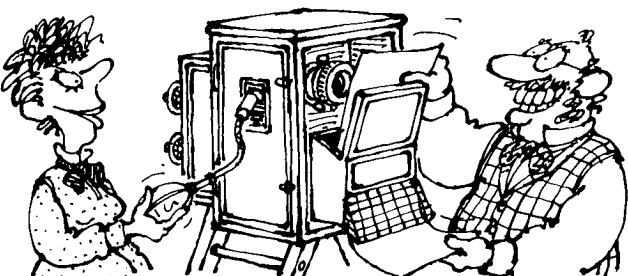
■ On 'Black Monday' share prices on Wall Street fell over 20% in one day.



■ At the Earth Summit in Rio world leaders agreed to do more to protect the environment.



■ The 'Rectigraph' (or photocopier, as it is now known) was patented in America.



B



In 1850 during the Gold Rush thousands of miners were arriving in San Francisco to look for gold.

Strauss was selling denim cloth for making tents.

A miner complained that his trousers were not strong enough for his work.

On stock markets around the world dealers were using computers to control trading.

The US government was borrowing large amounts of money from foreign investors.

In 1987 US interest rates suddenly began to rise.

Scientists were becoming more and more worried about pollution, particularly from developing countries.

The Green movement was growing in the West.

By 1992 governments realised that they had to take action.

In 1903 the US government was selling land in Oklahoma to thousands of families.

George Beidler was copying contracts by hand for new land owners.

Beidler had the idea of using a camera.

The conditions for change

Worksheet

32

ACTIVITY

Groupwork: reading, speaking

AIM

To speak about the background to important events.

GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONS

Past continuous for describing background events

VOCABULARYGeneral: *to protect, to patent, to copy, to take action, a miner, a contract, an investor, a tent, a developing country***PREPARATION**

Make one copy of the section marked A of the worksheet for each student in the class and one copy of the section marked B for each group of two to four students. Cut out the sentences as indicated.

TIME

30 minutes

PROCEDURE

- Write the following sentence on the board.
The Berlin Wall came down.
Ask the students to say when this happened (1989) and what was happening in the world at the time.
For example:
In Eastern Europe Communist governments were falling.
- Tell the students they are going to try and put a date to other events and describe what was happening in the world at that time.
- Divide the class into groups of up to four students. Give each student a copy of the section marked A of the worksheet with the four main events and ask them to discuss a) when each one happened and b) why it happened (ie what was happening at the time).
- Go through the answers with the whole class.
- Give each group a set of the sentences in the section marked B, cut out and jumbled up. Ask them to find three events which led up to each of the four main events.
- When they have finished, ask them to put away the sentences. Then ask a student from each group to describe the background situation to one of the four main events.

FOLLOW-UP

Ask the students to prepare another such story to present in the next lesson. It could be the story (real or imaginary) of a scientific breakthrough, an economic disaster, or a technical development.

ANSWERS**Levi Strauss**

In 1850 during the Gold Rush thousands of miners were arriving in San Francisco to look for gold.
Strauss was selling denim cloth for making tents.
A miner complained that his trousers were not strong enough for his work.

Black Monday

On stock markets around the world dealers were using computers to control trading.
The US government was borrowing large amounts of money from foreign investors.
In 1987 US interest rates suddenly began to rise.

The Earth Summit

Scientists were becoming more and more worried about pollution, particularly from developing countries.
The Green movement was growing in the West.
By 1992 governments realised that they had to take action.

The 'Rectigraph'

In 1903 the US government was selling land in Oklahoma to thousands of families.
George Beidler was copying contracts by hand for new land owners.
Beidler had the idea of using a camera.