

- * Past perfect passive
- * Past perfect continuous
- * Vocabulary: conflicts and solutions

1 Read and listen

- a** Do you recognise the people in the photos? What do you know about them?
- b** Read the text quickly and answer the questions.
- 1 How did Alfred Nobel make his money?
 - 2 Why did he decide to start the Nobel Prizes?



Alfred Nobel Rests in Peace

People like Martin Luther King Jr, Nelson Mandela, Aung San Suu Kyi, Kofi Annan, Lech Walesa and Mother Teresa have become famous all around the world. ^A They are all winners of the Nobel Peace Prize. But none of them would have received their prize and the recognition it brings if it had not been for one Swedish man, Alfred Nobel.

When Alfred joined the Nobel family company, it had been developing explosives for many years. Alfred's father, Immanuel, had started the family fortune by working for the Russian army to produce landmines and sea mines, which are bombs that are put under the ground or in the sea and which explode when people move over them. But the family made even more money by manufacturing nitroglycerine, which was an effective but very dangerous explosive.

One day Alfred arrived home to find that his 20-year-old brother Emil had been killed in a nitroglycerine explosion. ^B The result was dynamite, which became an immediate success all over the world.

Alfred Nobel always wanted dynamite to be used for peaceful means. And when it was used to blast a path for the Panama Canal in 1914 he couldn't have been happier. Unfortunately, in the same year, the First World War started and, when it ended four years later, dynamite had been used to take away the lives of thousands of young men.

^C To see his invention being used in this way made him very sad.

Sometime later Alfred's older brother Ludwig died. One newspaper accidentally printed Alfred's obituary instead of his brother's. The obituary described Alfred as a man who had become rich

by inventing a weapon of mass destruction. When Alfred read this review of his life, he was horrified and decided to do something about it. He decided that he would use the great fortune that he had made to reward people who had been working to promote good in society. ^D The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the person who had done the most, or the best, work to promote friendship between countries, to abolish armies or to hold and promote peace conferences.

In 1997 the Nobel Peace Prize went to an American called Jody Williams for her efforts to get landmines banned. ^E Perhaps now, Alfred Nobel will rest more easily in his grave.

Discussion box

- 1 Why did the people in the photos win the Nobel Prize?
- 2 If you could award a Nobel Peace Prize, who would you give it to? Why?

c ▶ CD2 T12 Read the text again and add the sentences. Listen and check.

- 1 Alfred was determined to invent a safer explosive.
- 2 The five awards he created were for physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and, most significantly, peace.
- 3 Ironically, of course, the Nobel family fortunes had been built on mines.
- 4 Alfred had always hated war and considered it to be 'the horror of horrors and the greatest of all crimes'.
- 5 And what do they have in common?

d Read the text again and put these events in order.

- 1 Alfred started working with his father. ☐
- 2 Alfred read about his own 'death' in a newspaper. ☐
- 3 Alfred's brother Emil died in an accident. ☐
- 4 Dynamite killed many people during the First World War. ☐
- 5 Alfred created the Nobel Prizes. ☐
- 6 Alfred invented dynamite. ☐
- 7 Dynamite was used to build the Panama Canal. ☐

2 Grammar

* Past perfect passive

a Complete these sentences from the text in Exercise 1.

- 1 One day he arrived home to find that his brother killed in an explosion.
- 2 When the war ended four years later, dynamite used to take away the lives of thousands of young men.

b Circle the correct options to complete the rule.

RULE: We form the past perfect passive with the past perfect form of the verbs *be* / *have* plus the *infinitive* / *past participle* of the main verb.

c Read the text about the end of the First World War and circle the correct verb forms.

At 11 o'clock on 11 November, 1918, the peace treaty that ended the First World War *'was signed / had been signed'* in a railway carriage. When the war ended, all the soldiers *'were sent / had been sent'* home, but millions of men *'were killed / had been killed'* in the fighting and vast amounts of money *'were spent / had been spent'*. Large parts of the French countryside were in terrible condition, and many towns and cities *'were destroyed / had been destroyed'* by the guns of the opposing armies.

Because of the destruction, a decision *'was taken / had been taken'* in 1919 to start the League of Nations, to make sure that such a war would never happen again. The idea of a League *'was discussed / had been discussed'* for several years, but it was the First World War that made it happen.

Unfortunately, the League of Nations didn't work. Between 1939 and 1945, another World War *'was fought / had been fought'* between countries from all over the world.



d Complete the sentences. Use the past simple passive or past perfect passive form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 When the soldiers got home, they discovered that their homes *had been destroyed* (destroy) during the war.
- 2 When we got to the bookshop, we were too late! The last copy (sell).
- 3 There was a terrible car accident in my street last night – one man (kill).
- 4 The 2010 football World Cup (hold) in South Africa.
- 5 I was angry when I got to the shop because my bicycle (not repair).
- 6 It was strange to see my old school again – all the walls (paint) a different colour by the new caretaker.