#### Grammar: future in the past



#### **Worksheet A**

- 1 Read out your sentences with the correct future in the past for others to guess if they are true or
  - On 26th September 1983, a Soviet Lieutenant General received a computer message saying that a nuclear missile (about / strike) the Soviet Union. Though he was (point / launch) nuclear missiles to retaliate, he decided it was a computer error and avoided a nuclear war.

In the early 20th Century, the then US President Roosevelt (going / build) a national network of high-altitude monorails. Construction (about / start) when the car was invented.

False **False** 

True

- 3 Madonna (originally / plan / become) a lawyer, but she dropped out of university after forming a band.
- 4 Jack Black (about / accept) a part in the original Star Wars film in the 1970s, when he changed his mind, saying he 'didn't think it (going / be) successful'.

False

5 Games giant Nintendo considered creating the 'Nintendolphin' for the 3DS - a game whereby players (would / raise) a virtual dolphin.

True

# Worksheet B

- 1 Read out your sentences with the correct future in the past for others to guess if they are true or
  - When John Lennon was 5 years old, he had to choose between moving with his father to New Zealand or staying with his mother in Liverpool. He was (point / leave) with his father when his mother started crying, and he ran back to her. Had he moved with his father, The Beatles (would / never / have / happen).

True

Tatlin's Tower (meant / be) a utopian monument built in St. Petersburg. It (would / dwarf) the Eiffel Tower and rotated once every year, but was never built.

True

In 1975, a US Major (verge / start) a nuclear war after seeing an approaching missile on his radar screen. He was (about / order) an attack, when he realised that the 'missile' he had seen was actually a bit of the sandwich he'd been eating.

False

Christopher Columbus, en route to discover America, (supposed / stop) on the way in Africa, to pick up supplies for the Italian royal family. He (about / stop) there, when he changed his minded and continued his journey in order to save time. Had he stopped, he would have hit a terrible storm and never discovered America.

False

The singer Bob Dylan (originally / going / use) his given name Robert Allen, but changed his mind after he read some of Dylan Thomas's poems.

True

### Worksheet C

- 1 Read out your sentences with the correct future in the past for others to guess if they are true or false.
  - 1 X-Seed 4000 (going / be) a 4 km-high building. It (mean / hold) a city within its structure and it (would / be) the world's tallest building, but it was never built.

True

- Ancient Greeks planned to build an underwater city in the Mediterranean Sea. It (supposed / provide) protection from attacks, as it couldn't be seen from a ship. False
- Stalin (going / build) a huge tunnel between Moscow and Leningrad (now St. Petersburg). It (mean / allow) travel between the two cities in the event of a nuclear war.

False

On departing from Southampton on its maiden voyage, the Titanic caused huge waves in the harbour, which caused the SS New York to move and break free of its ropes. The SS New York (about / crash) into the Titanic, when it was rescued by smaller boats.

True

The British government (plan / build) the London Ringways as a series of circular motorways expanding from the city centre in the 1960s. Parts of it were (verge / be) completed, when a campaign to build more homes meant it was cancelled.

True

# **SOLUTIONS OF GRAMMAR 8A**

Worksheet A:
1 was about to strike, on the point of launching
2 was going to build, was about to start
3 was originally planning to become
4 was about to accept was going to be
6 would raise / would have raised
Worksheet B:
1 on the point of leaving, would never have happened
2 was meant to be, would dwarf / would have dwarfed
3 was on the verge of starting, about to order
4 was supposed to stop, was about to stop
5 was originally going to use
Worksheet C:
1 was going to be, was meant to hold, would be / would have been
2 was supposed to provide
3 was goingo to build, was meant to allow

4 was about to crash

5 was planning to build, on the verge of being