**Task 3**

Complete this article about Vivendi by putting each of the verbs in brackets into the past simple. Most of the verbs are irregular. Translate it into Russian.

**Vivendi: *150 years of history***

Vivendi, the French utilities and communications group, has a long history going back to 1853. In that year the Government (1) ............. (create) Compagnie Generale des Eaux. The

founders (2) (have) two objectives: to irrigate the countryside for farming and to supply water to towns and cities in France. In 1880 a treaty (3) (give) Generale des Eaux the right to supply water to Venice, and then Constantinople and Oporto (4) (come) soon after. By the time of the centenary celebrations in 1953 Generale des Eaux (5) (supply) water to eight million people in France.

In the 1960s and 1970s the company (6)........(begin) activities in the area of civil construction and (7)

(build) a large tower block in the La Defense business district of Paris.

During the 1980s Generale des Eaux (8) (join) with the Havas media group to create Canal Plus, a pay TV channel. They also (9) (take) a controlling stake in the civil engineering giant, SGE. In the 1990s they (10) (win) major contracts in the Asia Pacific region and in Latin America. Jean-Marie Messier 11) (become) CEO in 1996 and (12) (run) the company along American lines. He (13) (sell) $5 billion in assets and (14) (cut) the workforce by 10%. All this (15) (mean) that an annual loss of $600 million (16) (turn) into a profit of $320 million. In 1998 he (17) (change) the name of the group to Vivendi and soon after (18) (make) a series of partnerships and acquisitions in the telecommunications industry. Operations in North America (19) (grow) very quickly afterthis and in 2000 Vivendi (20) (buy) Seagram to become a truly international media and communications company.