

Reminder

Grammar reference page 166

The past forms of the verb *be* are *was(n't)* and *were(n't)*. We form questions by changing the word order.

Was he successful?

Where were you yesterday?

Regular verbs end *-ed* in the past tense. We use *did/didn't* to form questions and negatives.

What did you do?

It didn't take long.

Speaking: A good investment?

1 Read a story about Thomas J. Watson, the founder of IBM. Do you think he did the right thing or not?



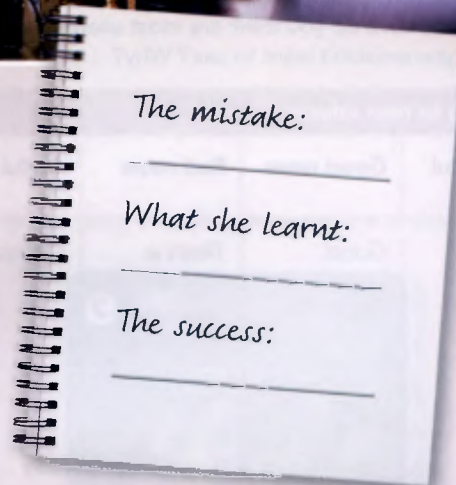
Thomas J. Watson

Many years ago, a junior executive at IBM made a mistake and lost \$600,000 in a risky business deal. The young man was very worried. 'I expect you want to fire me,' he said. 'Are you serious?' Watson replied, 'We just spent hundreds of thousands of dollars training you!' He gave the young man another project.

2 Which do you think people learn from more: their mistakes or successes? Why?

Listening: A mistake

3 **1.14** You are going to hear someone talking about a mistake they made at work. Listen and make notes below.



4 Compare your notes with a partner. Do you agree?

5 Listen again and answer these questions.

- 1 What project was Monika in charge of?
- 2 Why did she think the new technologies were great?
- 3 How much did the new technologies cost?
- 4 What did her project plan say?
- 5 How long did it take to install the first technology?
- 6 What happened the next day?
- 7 How did she solve the problem?
- 8 Did she complete the project on time?
- 9 Did she achieve the targets?

6 What can we learn from Monika's story? Are there any useful lessons here for your job?