

Grammar



was / were

1 Study the table. Copy and complete 1–3 with *was*, *wasn't* and *were*.

affirmative
He <i>was</i> a student in Madrid. Many events (1) ... for teenagers.
negative
It (2) ... a good play. They <i>weren't</i> from Scotland.
questions
(3) ... I / he / she / it a famous actor? <i>Were</i> we / you / they in the show?
short answers
No, I / he / she / it <i>wasn't</i> . Yes, we / you / they <i>were</i> .

2 Complete the questions with *was* or *were*.
Then write short answers.

Were you interested in books five years ago?
No, I *wasn't*.

- 1 ... the *Harry Potter* films good? ...
- 2 ... Sherlock Holmes a real person? ...
- 3 ... any of Shakespeare's plays comedies? ...

Answers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4 Complete the conversation with *could* or *couldn't*.

Jenny: Was the play good last night?

John: Yes, but I (1) ... see very well. We (2) ... get seats near the front.

Jenny: (3) ... you understand it, though? I think Shakespeare's difficult.

John: Yes, we (4) This play was in modern English so we (5) ... easily follow it.

5 Write questions with *could*. Then work in pairs and ask and answer the questions.

read / when / four?

Could you read when you were four?

- 1 ride a bicycle / when / six?
- 2 use a computer / when / eight?
- 3 speak English / when / ten?
- 4 cook / when / 12?



Answers:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

CLIL Grammar in context: Literature

6 Complete the text with the past simple form of the verbs in brackets.

7 1.30 Listen and check your answers.

CLIL TASK

Which of these novels were written by Charles Dickens?

Jane Eyre *Bleak House* *Emma*
Great Expectations

Who (1) ... (be) Charles Dickens?

He (2) ... (be) an English writer who (3) ... (live) from 1812 to 1870. He (4) ... (write) 15 novels, including *A Christmas Carol* and *Oliver Twist*.

What (5) ... (he / write) about?

A lot of his books (6) ... (be) about poor people. They (7) ... (not have) an easy life in the 19th century. Dickens (8) ... (not think) people should live in bad conditions and he (9) ... (try) to make people think about these problems.

Why (10) ... (people / like) his books?

Because they (11) ... (have) exciting stories and interesting characters. Everyone (12) ... (love) them — even people who (13) ... (can not) read! They (14) ... (pay) other people to read the books to them!