

GRAMMAR 1 Was/were; ago

»»» Talk about situations in the past

1 Complete the grammar table with the words in the box.

was (x2) wasn't (x2) were weren't

Was/were; ago
Use: To talk about situations in the past.
Form:
Positive and negative
I/he/she/it + was/(1) <i>wasn't</i>
we/you/they + were/weren't
Questions and short answers
(2) _____ he/she/it ... ?
Yes, she was. / No, she (3) _____.
Were we/you/they ... ?
Yes, they (4) _____ . / No, they (5) _____.
Time expressions:
time period + ago
I (6) _____ born a long time ago.

2 Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

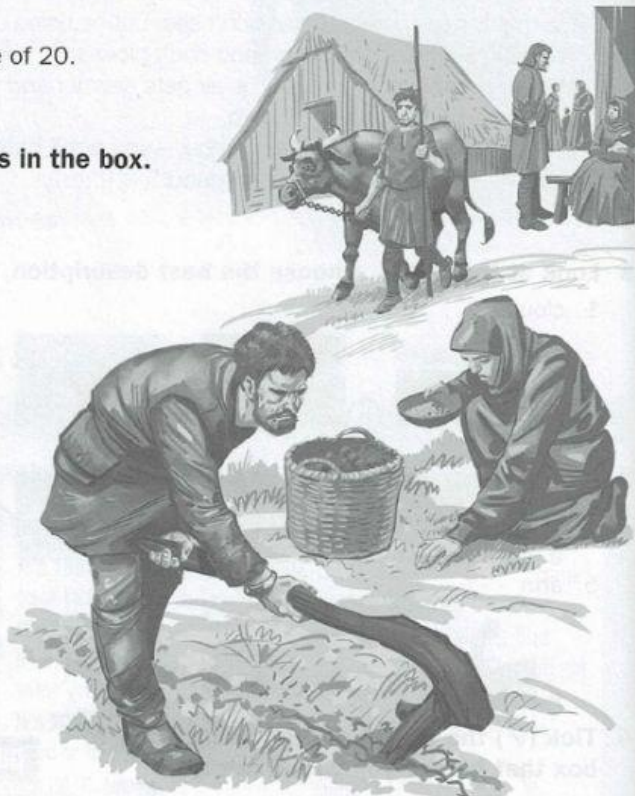
A thousand years ago ...

- 1 a lot of people were / was farmers.
- 2 not many people were / was in towns.
- 3 there were / was education but only for the rich.
- 4 a person was / were usually married before the age of 20.
- 5 life were / was difficult.
- 6 there was / were no hospitals.

3 Complete the table with the words and phrases in the box.

a party home hospital my bedroom
New York school Spain the cinema

At	In
<i>school</i>	



4 >> Match the questions (1–8) to the answers (a–h).

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Were you born in London? | X |
| 2 Was London the capital of England 2,000 years ago? | X |
| 3 Were there big celebrations in London for the new millennium? | ✓ |
| 4 Was the London Eye popular in 2000? | ✓ |
| 5 Were there new millennium towers built in London in 2000? | X |
| 6 Was Usain Bolt born in the East End of London? | X |
| 7 Were David Beckham and Daniel Radcliffe born in London? | ✓ |
| 8 Was Mary Poppins a real woman? | X |

- a No, it wasn't. 2
- b Yes, it was. _____
- c No, he wasn't. _____
- d No, I wasn't. _____
- e Yes, there were. _____
- f No, she wasn't. _____
- g No, there weren't. _____
- h Yes, they were. _____

5 >> Complete the conversations with **were**, **weren't**, **was** or **wasn't**.

Kara: Where (1) were you? Now we're late for the cinema.

Leo: Sorry, there (2) _____ any trains.

Al: Who (3) _____ that?

Don: That (4) _____ Jim. We (5) _____ at school together.

Uri: Why (6) _____ Arturo at school yesterday?

Lara: He (7) _____ very well. He (8) _____ at the doctor's.

Eva: Who (9) _____ your best friends at your first school?

Sam: They (10) _____ Jo and Jim.

6 >>> Complete the text with past forms of the verb **be**.

When I (✓) (1) was your age, there (X) (2) _____ the internet and there (X) (3) _____ any mobile phones. There (✓) (4) _____ many music shops and there (✓) (5) _____ a video shop in my street. That (✓) (6) _____ a long time ago. You (X) (7) _____ born then.

7 >>> Put the words in order to make sentences.

1 you / Where / were / ago? / an hour

Where were you an hour ago?

2 Was / Joe / you? / with

3 weren't / We / at home / four / hours ago.

4 were / at / the cinema. / We

5 the film / was / What / like?

6 wasn't / very / good. / It

