

Grammar

Past simple: *be* and *can*

I can talk about the past using be and can.

- 1 Circle the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 Jason was / wasn't at school. He was on holiday.
- 2 Pete and Kate was / were at the theatre last night.
- 3 Wendy and Jo were / weren't with me. Was / Were they with you?
- 4 Was / Were you at home last night? "Yes, I was / were."
- 5 Harry was / were in Spain last summer.
- 6 The weather was / were really nice last weekend – warm and sunny.

- 2 Look at the table. Write sentences about where the people were. Use the past simple form of *be*, affirmative or negative.

Day	Freddy	Nola
Mon	London	Manchester
Tues	Cardiff	Cardiff
Wed	Bristol	London
Thur	Newcastle	Bristol
Fri	Liverpool	Liverpool
Sat and Sun	Plymouth	Nottingham

- 1 Freddy / Manchester / Monday
Freddy wasn't in Manchester on Monday.
- 2 Nola / London / Wednesday
- 3 Freddy and Nola / Newcastle / Tuesday
- 4 Freddy / Plymouth / Saturday and Sunday
- 5 Nola / London / Monday
- 6 Freddy and Nola / Liverpool / Friday

- 3 Where were you? Write questions and true answers.

- 1 at two o'clock in the morning?
Where were you at two o'clock in the morning?
I was in bed.
- 2 at ten o'clock yesterday morning?
- 3 at three o'clock yesterday afternoon?
- 4 at seven o'clock on Friday evening?
- 5 at eleven o'clock on Saturday night?

- 4 What could Sarah and Mike do at these ages? Look at the table and write questions and answers. Use *be* and *can*.

	Sarah	Mike
swim	age three	age four
read	age five	age three
ride a bike	age six	age six

- 1 Mike / swim / three? Could Mike swim when he was three?
No, he couldn't.
- 2 Sarah / swim / four?
- 3 Mike / read / three?
- 4 Sarah / read / four?
- 5 Mike and Sarah / ride a bike / six?

- 5 Complete the dialogue. Use the correct past simple form of *be* and *can* (affirmative, negative and interrogative).



- Zoe** Hi, Erin. Are you having a good time in Africa?
Erin Yes, I am. I phoned you on Saturday, but you
 1 at home. Then I tried to phone you
 yesterday. But I 2 get a signal.
Zoe Where are you now?
Erin In Zanzibar. We arrived two days ago. Yesterday we
 3 at the beach. I tried surfing, but it was
 really difficult – I 4 stand up!
Zoe 5 there any sharks?
Erin No! Well, I 6 see any!
Zoe 7 you in Tanzania last week?
Erin Yes, we 8 . We climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.
 The view from the top 9 fantastic!
 I 10 see for miles!
Zoe Wow! That sounds amazing!