

Language at work | Past simple: *be* and regular verbs

1 ▶ 5.2 Listen to a conversation between Janusz and Carlos and choose the correct answers.

- 1 Janusz was at a *meeting / presentation* about branding.
- 2 It was at *breakfast / lunchtime*.
- 3 Carlos *was / wasn't* in the office yesterday.

2 ▶ 5.2 Listen again. Complete the conversation with *was*, *wasn't*, *were* or *weren't*.

Janusz Sorry I'm late. I ¹ _____ at the presentation on branding.

Carlos Oh, ² _____ that this morning?

Janusz Yes, at 7.30 in the Century Hotel.

Carlos Oh. ³ _____ it good?

Janusz Yes, the presentation ⁴ _____ really interesting, and there ⁵ _____ lots of good questions at the end.

Carlos ⁶ _____ there many people there?

Janusz There ⁷ _____ many people for the breakfast at the start, but there ⁸ _____ lots for the presentation. It ⁹ _____ too early for some people!

Carlos ¹⁰ _____ you on time?

Janusz Of course! But the breakfast ¹¹ _____ very good. Anyway, why ¹² _____ you in the office yesterday?

Carlos There ¹³ _____ terrible problems with my flight back from Rome ...

3 Complete *Language point 1* about the past simple for *be*. Use *was*, *wasn't*, *were* and *weren't*.

LANGUAGE POINT 1

Positive

I/He/She/It _____ late.

You/We/They _____ late.

Negative

I/He/She/It _____ late.

You/We/They _____ late.

Questions

_____ I/he/she/it late?

_____ you/we/they late?

Short answers

Yes, I/he/she/it _____.

No, I/he/she/it _____.

Yes, you/we/they _____.

No, you/we/they _____.

We can make negative questions with *wasn't* and *weren't*.

Example: Why weren't you in the office yesterday? Wasn't your flight on time?

» For more information, go to **Grammar reference** on page 95.

4 Work with a partner. Ask and answer questions about a report. Student A, turn to page 111. Student B, turn to page 118.

10.1 Where were these people at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon?



- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1 Joe was in bed. | 4 |
| 2 Jack and Kate | 5 |
| 3 Sue | 6 And you? I |

10.2 Write **am/is/are** (present) or **was/were** (past).

- Last year she was 22, so she is 23 now.
- Today the weather is nice, but yesterday it was very cold.
- I was hungry. Can I have something to eat?
- I feel fine this morning, but I was very tired last night.
- Where were you at 11 o'clock last Friday morning?
- Don't buy those shoes. They were very expensive.
- I like your new jacket. Was it expensive?
- This time last year I was in Paris.
- 'Where were Sam and Joe?' 'I don't know. They were here a few minutes ago.'

10.3 Write **was/were** or **wasn't/weren't**.

- We weren't happy with the hotel. Our room was very small and it wasn't clean.
- Mark wasn't at work last week because he was ill. He's better now.
- Yesterday was a public holiday, so the banks were closed. They're open today.
- 'Were Kate and Ben at the party?' 'Kate wasn't there, but Ben was.'
- Where are my keys? They were on the table, but they're not there now.
- You were at home last night. Where were you?

10.4 Write questions from these words + **was/were**. Put the words in the right order.

- (late / you / this morning / why?)
Why were you late this morning?

- (difficult / your exam?)

- (last week / where / Sue and Chris?)

- (your new camera / how much?)

- (angry / you / yesterday / why?)

- (nice / the weather / last week?)

→ The traffic was bad.

→ No, it was easy.

→ They were on holiday.

→ A hundred pounds.

→ Because you were late.

→ Yes, it was beautiful.

Put *was*, *wasn't*, *were* or *weren't* in the gaps in these conversations.

Peter: (►) *Was* Paul at work today?

Julie: No, he (1) in the office. I think he's sick.

Henry: (2) you in South America last year?

Steve: Yes. I (3) in Bolivia on business, and then my wife and I (4) in Brazil for a holiday.

Paula: Philip and I (5) at home in London last week. We (6) at Mike's house in Cornwall. It was lovely there. Do you know Mike?

Jane: Yes, I (7) at Mike's party in Oxford in the summer. (8) you there?

Paula: No, we weren't there. Philip and I (9) in Portugal in the summer.

Student A

- 1 You weren't at a presentation last week. Your partner was. Check if the report below is correct.

Example: *Was the presentation on Tuesday morning?*

Presentation: Future plans

Time: Tuesday morning (?)

Present: Jan, Lydia, Janusz, Carlos (?)

Venue: The conference room (?)

Speaker: Managing Director (?)

- 2 Now answer your partner's questions about this report.

Presentation: Profits for this year

Time: Wednesday morning

Present: Jan, Lydia, Janusz, Carlos, Piotr

Venue: The conference room

Speaker: Financial Director

Student B

- 1 Your partner wants to know if the report below is correct. You were at the presentation last week. Your partner wasn't. Answer his/her questions

Example: *Was the presentation on Tuesday morning?*

Presentation: Future plans

Time: Tuesday morning

Present: Jan, Lydia, Carlos

Venue: Room 305

Speaker: Managing Director

- 2 Now ask your partner questions about this report.

Presentation: Profits for this year

Time: Thursday morning (?)

Present: Jan, Janusz, Lydia, Carlos (?)

Venue: The conference room (?)

Speaker: Managing Director and
Financial Director (?)

Create your comic strip using was/were