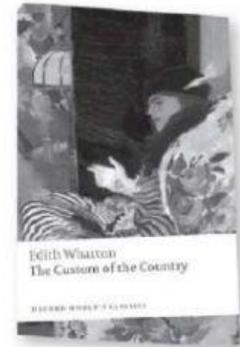
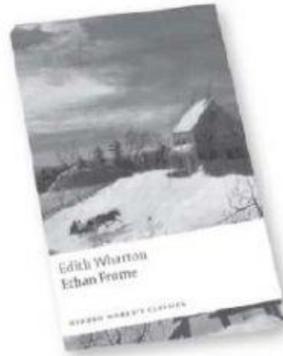


My life is a simple thing that would interest nobody.  
It is a known fact that I was born, and that is all that is necessary.

Albert Einstein, German scientist

# 7A At the National Portrait Gallery

## 1 GRAMMAR simple past of be: was / were



a Complete the sentences with *was*, *were*, *wasn't*, or *weren't*.

- A Who's that?  
B It's Edith Wharton.  
A Why <sup>1</sup> was she famous?  
B She <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a writer.  
A <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ she Canadian?  
B No, she <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.  
She <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ American. She <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ born in New York City in 1862.  
A And <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ she married?  
B Yes, she <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

b Write questions and answers.

- 1 Alexander Graham Bell / sportsman? ✗  
Was Alexander Graham Bell a sportsman \_\_\_\_\_?  
No, he wasn't \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor / actors? ✓  
Were Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor actors \_\_\_\_\_?  
Yes, they were \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Jorge Luis Borges / writer? ✓  
\_\_\_\_\_?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 The Beatles / from the US? ✗  
\_\_\_\_\_?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Robert Frost / politician? ✗  
\_\_\_\_\_?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 I.M. Pei / composer? ✗  
\_\_\_\_\_?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

7 Sofia Vergara / born / Columbia? ✓

\_\_\_\_\_?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

8 Frank Sinatra / singer? ✓

\_\_\_\_\_?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

9 J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis / painters? ✗

\_\_\_\_\_?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

10 Michael Jackson / born / Britain? ✗

\_\_\_\_\_?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

c Complete the dialogues with present or past forms of *be*.

- 1 A What day is it today?  
B Monday. Yesterday was Sunday.
- 2 A Hi. \_\_\_\_\_ your sister at home?  
B No, she \_\_\_\_\_ . She \_\_\_\_\_ here this morning, but now she \_\_\_\_\_ at work.
- 3 A I can't find my keys. Where \_\_\_\_\_ they?  
B I don't know. They \_\_\_\_\_ on your desk this morning.
- 4 A Where \_\_\_\_\_ your new friend from?  
B He \_\_\_\_\_ born in the US, but his parents \_\_\_\_\_ born in Singapore.
- 5 A Why \_\_\_\_\_ your boss angry yesterday?  
B Because I \_\_\_\_\_ very late for work.

## 2 VOCABULARY word formation

a Make professions from these words. Use *a* or *an*.

- 1 invent an inventor
- 2 write \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 dance \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 compose \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 music \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 paint \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 business \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 act \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 science \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 sail \_\_\_\_\_

b Underline the stressed syllables, e.g. *an inventor*.

c Practice saying the words in a.

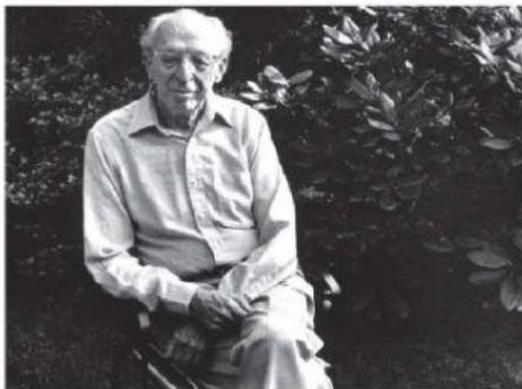
d Complete the sentences with *was* / *were* and a noun from a.

- 1 Francis Drake was a sailor.
- 2 Beethoven and Mozart were composers.
- 3 James Dean \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Galileo \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Freddie Mercury \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 The Wright brothers \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 F. Scott Fitzgerald \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Howard Hughes \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9 Degas and Toulouse-Lautrec \_\_\_\_\_.

## 3 PRONUNCIATION sentence stress

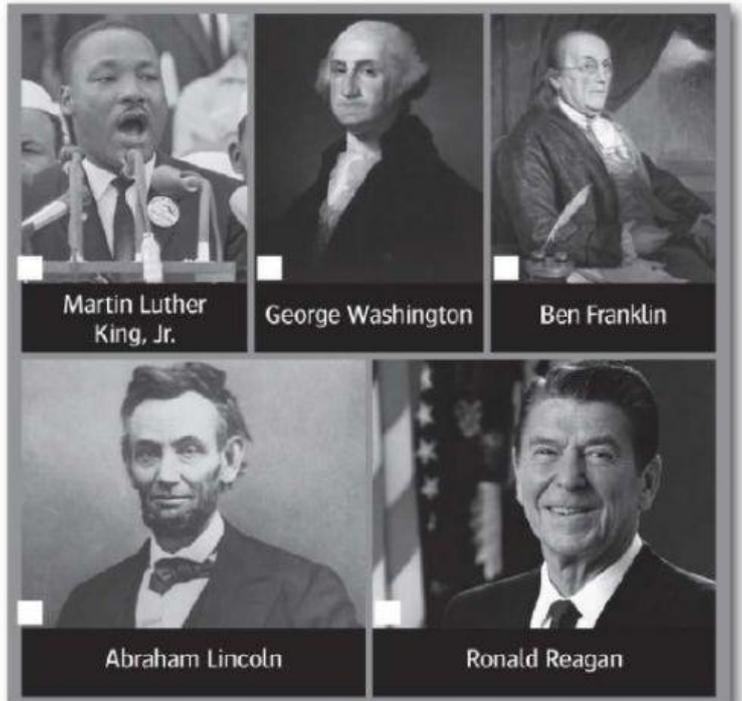
**iChecker** Listen and repeat the conversation.

- A Who was Aaron Copland?  
 B He was a composer.  
 A Was he British?  
 B No, he wasn't. He was American.  
 A When was he born?  
 B He was born in 1900.  
 A Were his parents composers?  
 B No, they weren't.



## 4 LISTENING

a **iChecker** Listen to a radio program about the greatest Americans of all time. Number the people in the order they come on the list.



b **iChecker** Listen again. Write T (true) or F (false).

- 1 Ben Franklin was a young newspaper owner. T
- 2 George Washington was born on February 12, 1732. —
- 3 He was 76 when he died. —
- 4 Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15th, 1929. —
- 5 He was young when he died. —
- 6 Abraham Lincoln was a painter. —
- 7 He was 56 when he died. —
- 8 The greatest American of all time was a singer. —

### USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Learn these words and phrases.

- the (16th) century /ðə 'sɛntʃəri/  
 killed /kɪld/  
 between (1816 and 1820) /bɪ'twɪn/  
 be against (something) /bi ə'ɡɛnst/  
 be in love (with someone) /bi ɪn 'lʌv/