

5.5 Past Simple: was/were, could

- We use the Past Simple to talk about events and situations that started and ended in the past:
*John and I **were** at the same school.*
*We both **could** play basketball and football, but we **couldn't** play tennis.*
- The Past Simple form of the verb to be is was/were:

Affirmative	Negative
I/He/She/It was at school.	I/He/ wasn't She/It (was not) at school.
You/We/ were They	You/We/ weren't They (were not)
Yes/No questions	Short answers
Was I/he/she/it at school? Were you/we/ they	Yes, I/he/she/it was . No, I/he/she/it wasn't . Yes, you/we/they were . No, you/we/they weren't .

Wh- questions

Where **was** I/he/she/it?
 were you/we/they?

The Past Simple form of can is could.

Affirmative	Negative
I/You/He/She/ It/We/They could sing.	I/You/He/ couldn't She/It/ (could sing. We/They not)
Yes/No questions	Short answers
Could I/you/he/she/ it/we/they sing?	Yes, I/you/he/she/it/we/they could. No, I/you/he/she/it/we/they couldn't.

Wh- questions

What **could** I/you/he/she/it/we/they **sing?**

- CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTIONS.**
 - School **wasn't / couldn't** always fun for me.
 - When I was younger, I **wasn't / weren't** very good at sports.
 - I **wasn't / couldn't** understand Maths.
 - A: **Could / Were** you play a musical instrument when you were a child?
 B: Yes, I **was / could**.
 - A: **Were / Was** high school a nice experience for you?
 B: Yes, it **was / were**.
 - All my children **was / were** bad at History when they **were** at school.
 - A: What **was / were** your favourite school subjects?
 B: History **was / could** great. I **couldn't / wasn't** speak French well, but that **was / could** interesting, too!
 - Your sister **could / was** Miss Teen London. **Could / Were** you jealous?
- COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH *was/wasn't, were/weren't OR could/couldn't*.**

- Science _____ a compulsory subject at my school. I _____ study Geography instead.
- When I _____ five, I _____ speak a little French.
- A: _____ you a noisy child? B: No, I _____.
- The other kids my age _____ very friendly to me, so I often felt lonely.
- At school I _____ understand Science at all. I _____ very bad at it.
- A: _____ Einstein good at Maths? B: Yes, he _____.
- A: What _____ you good at as a child? B: Well, I _____ run really fast.
- When my children_____ at primary school, they _____ play any musical instruments yet.
- Her secondary school _____ single-sex. There _____ boys and girls in her class.
- Last week it _____ very cold in the classroom. We _____ think or write!