

## Past simple of the verbs 'to be' and 'can'

### 1. Write in was or were.

In winter 1998 it ..... very cold.

Dinner.....OK, but the rice .....  
not very good.

I can't find my bag. It .....here 5  
minutes ago.

My grandmother.....a teacher, and  
her two sisters.....both nurses.

When.....your diving exam?

Why.....Ann late?

It.....sunny and hot, and we.....  
...exhausted.

'.....they in Vilnius yesterday?' 'Yes,  
they.....'

I.....happy to see you.

### 2. Write in could or couldn't.

In 1950, people ..... use  
mobile phones.

Yesterday, Peter ..... do that  
exercise alone. So, he called me for help.

We ..... open the door: it was  
locked from the inside!

In 1900, people ..... watch TV.

Mary's grandfather ..... play  
chess and he was the best! But his  
children ..... play chess!

When Ann was a teenager, she.....  
watch a horror film: it was too frightening  
for her!

In 1945, people ..... play video  
games.

### 3. Complete the text with was, were, weren't, could or couldn't.

Some ancient Romans.....very rich and their brick houses.....beautiful.

There.....any windows on the outside walls and there.....any carpets on  
the floors. The public baths.....very popular. Men and women.....go  
there at different times, but children.....use the baths. Hunting, riding and having  
dinner parties with friends.....popular free-time activities. There.....lots  
of games for children. The boys' favourite games.....ball games and the girls'  
favourite toy .....a doll. The life .....very easy then, but people.....  
..happy. They.....enjoy different dishes, and their favourite drink.....  
wine. Children.....drink it, because it.....forbidden.