

The past

6.1 Don't give up!

Grammar *was* and *were*

1 Make positive (+) or negative (-) sentences, or questions (?) using the past form of *be*.

- 1 (+) the co-founders of Microsoft / Bill Gates and Paul Allen The co-founders of Microsoft were Bill Gates and Paul Allen.
- 2 (?) the restaurant / expensive _____
- 3 (-) Harry's meal / very good _____
- 4 (+) I / very tired last night _____
- 5 (?) where / you / yesterday _____
- 6 (-) we / late for work this morning _____
- 7 (?) why / Vincent van Gogh / famous _____
- 8 (-) I / born in England _____

2 Choose the correct options to complete the article.

IKEA is born

Ingvar Kamprad ¹*was* / *were* the founder of the furniture company IKEA. He ²*was* / *were* born in 1926 in Sweden. His parents ³*wasn't* / *weren't* rich – they ⁴*was* / *were* farmers and the family home ⁵*was* / *were* near a small village in the south of Sweden. Ingvar ⁶*wasn't* / *weren't* interested in farming. He started IKEA in his uncle's kitchen in 1943. His first products ⁷*was* / *were* pencils and other small items. There ⁸*wasn't* / *weren't* any IKEA stores before 1958 – it ⁹*was* / *were* only possible to buy things from IKEA by mail. The first IKEA store ¹⁰*was* / *were* in Sweden, but now there are stores around the world.



3 Read the article in exercise 2 again. Complete the questions below with *was* or *were*, then write short answers.

- 1 Was Ingvar Kamprad born in Sweden?
Yes, he was.
- 2 _____ his parents rich?
- 3 _____ they farmers?
- 4 _____ Ingvar interested in farming?
- 5 _____ IKEA furniture on sale in 1950?

- 7 Look at the events in exercise 6. Put them in order, with the most recent event first.

NOW

- 1 Jackie was in her office half an hour ago.
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____

- 8 Complete the text. Use the word/phrase/date in (brackets) and add *in*, *last* or *ago*.

FAMILY HISTORY

My father-in-law, Glen, was a police officer, but he retired ¹ in 2006 (2006). Now, he has more time and he enjoys researching his family history. Glen goes to family-history meetings every month and he visits museums all over the country to find out more information about his own family – ² _____ (month) he was in York and this week he's in Cambridge.

³ _____ (two years), he was in Wales. He was there because ⁴ _____ (the 19th century) his grandparents were farmers in Wales. It was ⁵ _____ (a long time), but the farm is there today! ⁶ _____ (year) he was in Canada – Glen's aunt moved to Canada ⁷ _____ (1935) and Glen has some cousins in Toronto. He was really happy to meet them when he was there ⁸ _____ (the summer). My husband and I were at Glen's house ⁹ _____ (night) and he showed us his photos of Wales and Canada – they were very interesting.

Vocabulary time expressions

- 6 Put the words in the right order to make sentences.

- 1 her / Jackie / in / hour / ago / was / office / an / half .
Jackie was in her office half an hour ago.
- 2 in / London Olympics / The / 2012 / were / last .

- 3 There / night / was / match / an / last / football / important .

- 4 year / Spain / We / in / were / last .

- 5 morning / was / tired / I / this / very .

- 6 Albert Einstein / nineteenth / in / century / born / the / was .

- 7 a / staff meeting / few / There / days / was / ago / a .

- 8 in hospital / She / two / ago / was / months .

I can ...

Very well Quite well More practice

use *was/were* to talk about the past.

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use other time expressions.

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