

Past simple: *be* and *can*

I can talk about the past using be and can.

1 Circle the correct words to complete the sentences.

- Jason **was** / **wasn't** at school. He was on holiday.
- Pete and Kate **was** / **were** at the theatre last night.
- Wendy and Jo **were** / **weren't** with me. **Was** / **Were** they with you?
- '**Was** / **Were** you at home last night?' 'Yes, I **was** / **were**.'
- Harry **was** / **were** in Spain last summer.
- The weather **was** / **were** really nice last weekend – warm and sunny.

2 Look at the table. Write sentences about where the people were. Use the past simple form of *be*, affirmative or negative.

Day	Freddy	Nola
Mon	London	Manchester
Tues	Cardiff	Cardiff
Wed	Bristol	London
Thur	Newcastle	Bristol
Fri	Liverpool	Liverpool
Sat and Sun	Plymouth	Nottingham

- Freddy / Manchester / Monday
Freddy wasn't in Manchester on Monday.
- Nola / London / Wednesday

- Freddy and Nola / Newcastle / Tuesday

- Freddy / Plymouth / Saturday and Sunday

- Nola / London / Monday

- Freddy and Nola / Liverpool / Friday

3 Where were you? Write questions and true answers.

- at two o'clock in the morning?
Where were you at two o'clock in the morning?
I was in bed.
- at ten o'clock yesterday morning?

- at three o'clock yesterday afternoon?

- at seven o'clock on Friday evening?

- at eleven o'clock on Saturday night?

4 What could Sarah and Mike do at these ages? Look at the table and write questions and answers. Use *be* and *can*.

	Sarah	Mike
swim	age three	age four
read	age five	age three
ride a bike	age six	age six

- Mike / swim / three? *Could Mike swim when he was three?*
No, he couldn't.
- Sarah / swim / four? _____
- Mike / read / three? _____
- Sarah / read / four? _____
- Mike and Sarah / ride a bike / six? _____

5 Complete the dialogue. Use the correct past simple form of *be* and *can* (affirmative, negative and interrogative).



- Zoe** Hi, Erin. Are you having a good time in Africa?
- Erin** Yes, I am. I phoned you on Saturday, but you
1 _____ at home. Then I tried to phone you
yesterday. But I 2 _____ get a signal.
- Zoe** Where are you now?
- Erin** In Zanzibar. We arrived two days ago. Yesterday we
3 _____ at the beach. I tried surfing, but it was
really difficult – I 4 _____ stand up!
- Zoe** 5 _____ there any sharks?
- Erin** No! Well, I 6 _____ see any!
- Zoe** 7 _____ you in Tanzania last week?
- Erin** Yes, we 8 _____. We climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.
The view from the top 9 _____ fantastic!
I 10 _____ see for miles!
- Zoe** Wow! That sounds amazing!