

(there) was/were**1 ☆ Choose the correct option.**

Where **1 was/were** you on Saturday? It **2 was/were** Will's birthday and you **3 wasn't/weren't** at his party.

No, I **4 wasn't/weren't**. I **5 was/were** at home. My mum **6 wasn't/weren't** there and my little sister **7 was/were** with me. **8 Was/Were** it a good party?

Yes, it **9 was/were**. Your cousins Rachel and Maya **10 wasn't/weren't** there. Where **11 was/were** they?

I think they **12 was/were** at a concert. Their dad **13 was/were** in the band.

2 ☆☆ Complete the sentences with *there was/ were* or *there wasn't/weren't*.**How much do you know about these everyday objects?**

- There were (+) other board games before chess. Senet was probably the first one.
- There weren't (-) any small electronic calculators before the 1970s.
- People used bits of wood to clean their teeth in ancient times. There weren't (-) any modern toothbrushes until 1938.
- Before 1869, there weren't (-) any modern chewing gum. People chewed parts of trees instead.
- Around 7,000 years ago, there were (+) socks, but people used animal fur and not wool.

3 ☆☆☆ Complete the text with the correct past simple form of *be*.

Who **1 were** these famous historical inventors? Why **2 were** they famous?

There **3 were** so many cool people like John Logie Baird and Alexander Graham Bell. They **4 were** both from Scotland. Baird **5 was** one of the inventors of the television. People say that Bell **6 wasn't** (not) the only inventor of the telephone, but he made the first phone call. **7 Were** there any women? Well, there **8 was** Hedy Lamarr. She **9 wasn't** (not) a scientist. She **10 was** a famous actress and she **11 was** also very good at maths. Hedy Lamarr's work **12 was** important for the invention of WiFi, GPS and Bluetooth.

**could/couldn't****4 ☆☆ Complete the sentences with *could* or *couldn't* and the verbs in brackets.**

- Actor Angelina Jolie could fly (fly) a plane when she was 29.
- Helen Keller was an American writer and teacher. She couldn't see (not see) and she couldn't hear (not hear), but she got a university degree.
- Isaac Asimov was a writer of science fiction books. He wrote (write) several books at the same time.
- Artists Vincent van Gogh and Paul Cézanne didn't paint (not paint) until they were in their 20s.
- One of the world's best tennis players, Simona Halep, played (play) tennis well when she was only four years old.
- Albert Einstein didn't talk (not talk) when he was three and he didn't read (not read) when he was eight.

Past time expressions**5 ☆☆ Rewrite the underlined past time expressions with the words in the box.**

in July in the 21st century last night
~~seven days ago~~ the day before yesterday
when I was eight

- It was really cold last week.
seven days ago
- My keys were on the kitchen table two days ago.

- I'm now 14. I could speak English six years ago.

- There wasn't anything on TV yesterday at 9pm.

- I was born in 2007.

- My dad couldn't use social media last summer.

6 ☆☆☆ Rewrite four of the sentences in exercise 5 so they are true for you.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____