

7A At the National Portrait Gallery

1 GRAMMAR simple past of be: was / were



a Complete the sentences with was, were, wasn't, or weren't.

- A Who's that?
B It's Edith Wharton.
A Why ¹ was she famous?
B She ² _____ a writer.
A ³ _____ she Canadian?
B No, she ⁴ _____.
She ⁵ _____ American. She ⁶ _____ born
in New York City in 1862.
A And ⁷ _____ she married?
B Yes, she ⁸ _____.

b Write questions and answers.

- 1 Alexander Graham Bell / sportsman? ✗
Was Alexander Graham Bell a sportsman? ?
No, he wasn't.
2 Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor / actors? ✓
Were Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor actors? ?
Yes, they were.
3 Jorge Luis Borges / writer? ✓

4 The Beatles / from the US? ✗

5 Robert Frost / politician? ✗

6 I.M. Pei / composer? ✗

7 Sofia Vergara / born / Columbia? ✓

_____ ?

8 Frank Sinatra / singer? ✓

_____ ?

9 J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis / painters? ✗

_____ ?

10 Michael Jackson / born / Britain? ✗

_____ ?

c Complete the dialogues with present or past forms of be.

- 1 A What day is it today?
B Monday. Yesterday was Sunday.
2 A Hi. _____ your sister at home?
B No, she _____. She _____
here this morning, but now she _____
at work.
3 A I can't find my keys. Where _____ they?
B I don't know. They _____ on your desk
this morning.
4 A Where _____ your new friend from?
B He _____ born in the US, but his
parents _____ born in Singapore.
5 A Why _____ your boss angry yesterday?
B Because I _____ very late for work.

2 VOCABULARY word formation

a Make professions from these words. Use *a* or *an*.

- 1 invent an inventor
- 2 write _____
- 3 dance _____
- 4 compose _____
- 5 music _____
- 6 paint _____
- 7 business _____
- 8 act _____
- 9 science _____
- 10 sail _____

b Underline the stressed syllables, e.g. *an inventor*.

c Practice saying the words in a.

d Complete the sentences with *was / were* and a noun from a.

- 1 Francis Drake was a sailor.
- 2 Beethoven and Mozart were composers.
- 3 James Dean _____.
- 4 Galileo _____.
- 5 Freddie Mercury _____.
- 6 The Wright brothers _____.
- 7 F. Scott Fitzgerald _____.
- 8 Howard Hughes _____.
- 9 Degas and Toulouse-Lautrec _____.

3 PRONUNCIATION sentence stress

iChecker Listen and repeat the conversation.

- A Who was Aaron Copland?
 B He was a composer.
 A Was he British?
 B No, he wasn't. He was American.
 A When was he born?
 B He was born in 1900.
 A Were his parents composers?
 B No, they weren't.



4 LISTENING

a **iChecker** Listen to a radio program about the greatest Americans of all time. Number the people in the order they come on the list.



b **iChecker** Listen again. Write T (true) or F (false).

- 1 Ben Franklin was a young newspaper owner. T
- 2 George Washington was born on February 12, 1732. —
- 3 He was 76 when he died. —
- 4 Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15th, 1929. —
- 5 He was young when he died. —
- 6 Abraham Lincoln was a painter. —
- 7 He was 56 when he died. —
- 8 The greatest American of all time was a singer. —

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Learn these words and phrases.

- the (16th) century /ðə 'sentʃəri/
 killed /kɪld/
 between (1816 and 1820) /brɪ'twɪn/
 be against (something) /bi ə'ɡenst/
 be in love (with someone) /bi ɪn 'lʌv/