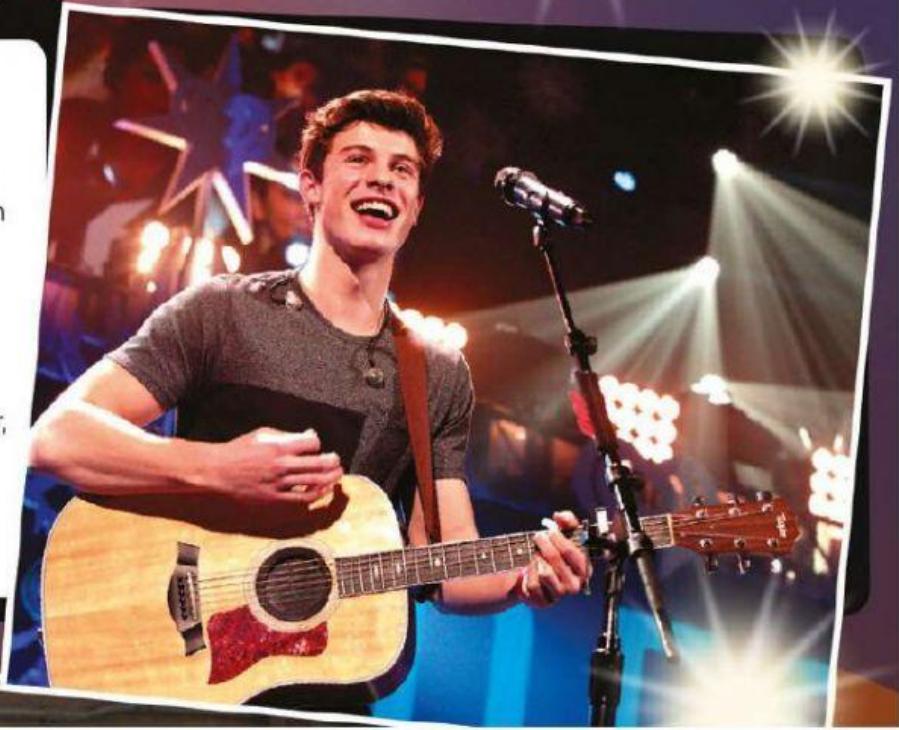


Online talent

Shawn Mendes

Shawn Mendes is a teenage singer and songwriter. He makes videos of his songs and he shares them online. He has millions of fans. But a few years ago, Shawn was a regular teenager from Canada. His hobbies were ice hockey and soccer. One of Shawn's singing videos was on the website Vine. It was just six seconds long! In one day, there were 10,000 "likes" for Shawn's video. Suddenly he was famous. A month later, Shawn was in front of 600 fans. It was his first concert! A year later, Shawn's first album was number five in the U.S. charts.



1. Read the text and choose TRUE or FALSE

1. **Shawn Mendes is from Canada.**
2. **His hobbies were skiing and baseball.**
3. **His video got 10.000 likes.**
4. **The video was only 8 seconds long.**
5. **His first concert was in front of 600 fans.**
6. **Shawn's first album was number 1 in the U.S. charts.**

2. Put the words in order to make sentences

A. FAMOUS / HE / WAS

B. FIRST CONCERT / HIS / IT / WAS

C. A / TEENAGER / FROM / SHAWN / WAS / CANADA

was / were: affirmative and negative

1  54 Read the text. Find a rock band and a metal band.



Black Sabbath was the first famous metal band. The singer was Ozzy Osbourne. At the time, rock bands like the Rolling Stones were popular. But metal was different – it was fast and very loud. At first, heavy metal wasn't popular, but by the 1980s, metal bands were famous all over the world.

2 Complete the chart.

Affirmative	Negative
I was in a band.	I wasn't in a band.
You were a good singer.	You weren't a good singer.
He / She / It was popular.	He / She / It wasn't popular.
We were fans of Michael Jackson.	We weren't fans of Michael Jackson.
You were good singers.	You weren't good singers.
They were famous.	They weren't famous.

3 Choose the correct words.

- 1 Marilyn Monroe **was** / **were** American.
- 2 She **were** / **was** born in 1926.
- 3 She **wasn't** / **weren't** a writer. She **was** / **were** an actor and a singer.
- 4 Her eyes **weren't** / **wasn't** brown. They **was** / **were** blue.



4 Complete the text with **was** / **were** (✓) or **wasn't** / **weren't** (✗).

Robyn Rihanna Fenty

1 **was** _____ (✓) born in Barbados in 1988. As a young girl, her life **2** _____ (✗) easy. Her parents **3** _____ (✗) happy and Robyn **4** _____ (✗) well. As a teenager, things **5** _____ (✓) different for Robyn. At 15, she **6** _____ (✓) the winner of her school's talent competition. At 16, she **7** _____ (✓) in a music studio in New York. And at 17, her first song **8** _____ (✓) in the Top 10 in over fifteen countries. She **9** _____ (✗) Robyn anymore. She **10** _____ (✓) Rihanna!



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

1 Amy Winehouse **wasn't** _____ an actor. She **was** a musician.

2 That **was** an awesome meal. I _____ really hungry.

3 We _____ at school last week. We **were** on vacation.

4 I _____ at your party yesterday because I **was** really tired.

5 Freddie Mercury **wasn't** born in England. The famous singer _____ born in Tanzania, in Africa.

6 Yesterday, the weather _____ good. It **was** cold and rainy.

7 Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears **were** TV presenters before they _____ singers.

 **Your turn**

6 Write two true and two false sentences about you. Use **was**, **were**, **wasn't**, or **weren't**. Can your partner guess which sentences are false?

My birthday **was** in June.

False! It **wasn't** in June. It **was** in July.

Stars of sound

Grammar

was / were: affirmative and negative

Affirmative

I **was** a fan of Eminem.

You **were** good at playing the guitar.

He / She / It **was** famous in the 1980s.

We / You / They **were** in a jazz band.

Negative

I **wasn't** a fan of classical music.

You **weren't** good at singing.

He / She / It **wasn't** famous in the 1980s.

We / You / They **weren't** in a metal band.

Was / **wasn't** and **were** / **weren't** are the simple past forms of **be**. We use them to talk about situations in the past.

I was a fan of pop music, but now I like R&B.

We often use time expressions with the simple past.

*My sister was born **in 2006**.*

*My parents were in a band **20 years ago**.*

Wasn't and weren't are the contracted forms of was not and were not.

1 Complete the concert reviews. Use the verbs **in** the correct order.



What was your opinion of the concert last night?



It ¹was _____ a great concert! The last two songs ²_____ my favorites.
(was / were)



It ³_____ really hot and the drinks ⁴_____ cheap. (\$4 for a soda!!!)
(weren't / was)



Awesome! My friends and I ⁵_____ next to the speakers! I ⁶_____ a fan of metal before, but now I love it!
(wasn't / were)



I love the band's first album, but all the songs at the concert ⁷_____ from the new album, and I ⁸_____ bored after 20 minutes.
(was / were)

2 Complete the sentences with the correct affirmative (✓) or negative (✗) simple past forms of **be**. Can you match the facts with the years?

1969 1986 1996 2015

Fifty Years of Pop

a

1986



Lady Gaga ¹was _____ (✓)

born in New York, U.S. Her

name ²_____ (✗)

Lady Gaga then! It ³_____ (✓)

Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta.

b

David Bowie's song *Space Oddity* ⁴_____ (✓) popular that year. It ⁵_____ (✓) the year of the moon landing and people ⁶_____ (✓) very excited about space.

c

Adele's album ⁷_____ (✓) popular in a lot of countries. But ⁸_____ (✗) her first album - it ⁹_____ (✓) her third.

d

The Spice Girls ¹⁰_____ (✓) on TV for the first time in the spring, but they ¹¹_____ (✗) famous then. Their first song, *Wannabe*, ¹²_____ (✓) number one two months later.