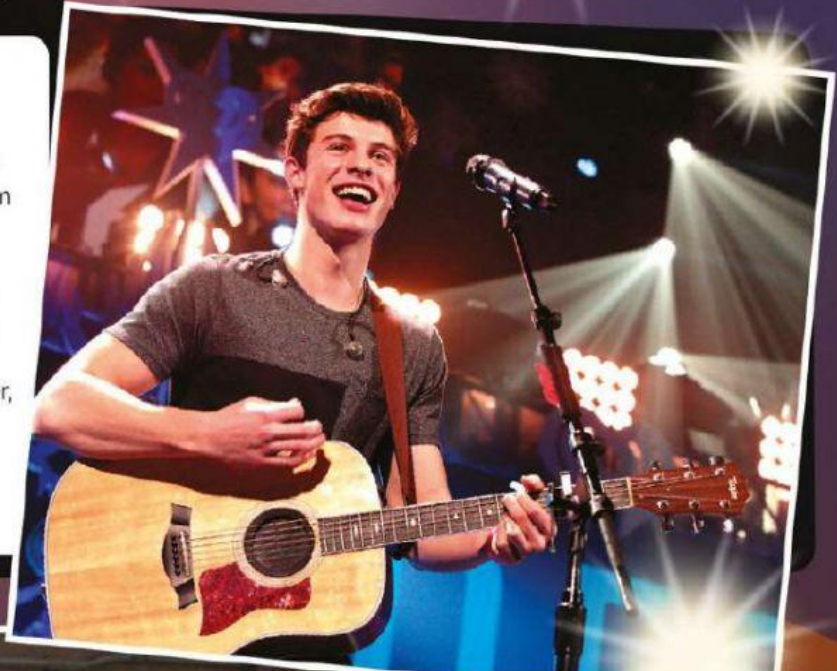


Online talent

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.

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



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

Robyn Rihanna Fenty

¹ **was** (✓) born in Barbados in 1988. As a young girl, her life ² _____ (X) easy. Her parents ³ _____ (X) happy and Robyn ⁴ _____ (X) 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 _____ (X) Robyn anymore. She ¹⁰ _____ (✓) Rihanna!



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

- Amy Winehouse **wasn't** an actor. She was a musician.
- That was an awesome meal. I _____ really hungry.
- We _____ at school last week. We were on vacation.
- I _____ at your party yesterday because I was really tired.
- Freddie Mercury **wasn't** born in England. The famous singer _____ born in Tanzania, in Africa.
- Yesterday, the weather _____ good. It was cold and rainy.
- 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.

Q What was your opinion of the concert last night?

★★★★★

It ¹ was 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 (X) 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 ¹ was (✓)

born in New York, U.S. Her

name ² _____ (X)

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 *25* ⁷ _____ (✓) popular in

a lot of countries. But *25* ⁸ _____ (X) her

first album - it ⁹ _____ (✓) her third.

d _____

The Spice Girls ¹⁰ _____ (✓) on TV

for the first time in the spring, but they

¹¹ _____ (X) famous then. Their first

song, *Wannabe*, ¹² _____ (✓) number

one two months later.