

GRAMMAR 1 Was/were; ago

»»» Talk about situations in the past

1 Complete the grammar table with the words in the box.

was (x2) wasn't (x2) were weren't

Was/were; ago

Use: To talk about situations in the past.

Form:

Positive and negative

I/he/she/it + was/(1) wasn't

we/you/they + were/weren't

Questions and short answers

(2) _____ he/she/it ... ?

Yes, she was. / No, she (3) _____.

Were we/you/they ... ?

Yes, they (4) _____ . / No, they (5) _____.

Time expressions:

time period + ago

I (6) _____ born a long time ago.

2 » Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

A thousand years ago ...

- 1 a lot of people were / was farmers.
- 2 not many people were / was in towns.
- 3 there were / was education but only for the rich.
- 4 a person was / were usually married before the age of 20.
- 5 life were / was difficult.
- 6 there was / were no hospitals.

3 » Complete the table with the words and phrases in the box.

a party home hospital my bedroom
New York school Spain the cinema

At	In
school	



4 >> Match the questions (1–8) to the answers (a–h).

1 Were you born in London?	X
2 Was London the capital of England 2,000 years ago?	X
3 Were there big celebrations in London for the new millennium?	✓
4 Was the London Eye popular in 2000?	✓
5 Were there new millennium towers built in London in 2000?	X
6 Was Usain Bolt born in the East End of London?	X
7 Were David Beckham and Daniel Radcliffe born in London?	✓
8 Was Mary Poppins a real woman?	X

- a No, it wasn't. 2
- b Yes, it was.
- c No, he wasn't.
- d No, I wasn't.
- e Yes, there were.
- f No, she wasn't.
- g No, there weren't.
- h Yes, they were.

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

Kara: Where (1) were you? Now we're late for the cinema.
 Leo: Sorry, there (2) any trains.

Ali: Who (3) that?
 Don: That (4) Jim. We (5) at school together.

Uri: Why (6) Arturo at school yesterday?
 Lara: He (7) very well. He (8) at the doctor's.

Eva: Who (9) your best friends at your first school?
 Sam: They (10) Jo and Jim.

6 >> Complete the text with past forms of the verb **be**.

When I (✓) (1) was your age, there (X) (2) the internet and there (X) (3) any mobile phones. There (✓) (4) many music shops and there (✓) (5) a video shop in my street. That (✓) (6) a long time ago. You (X) (7) born then.

7 >> Put the words in order to make sentences.

1 you / Where / were / ago? / an hour
Where were you an hour ago?

2 Was / Joe / you? / with

3 weren't / We / at home / four / hours ago.

4 were / at / the cinema. / We

5 the film / was / What / like?

6 wasn't / very / good. / It

