

# 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) <i>wasn't</i>
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.

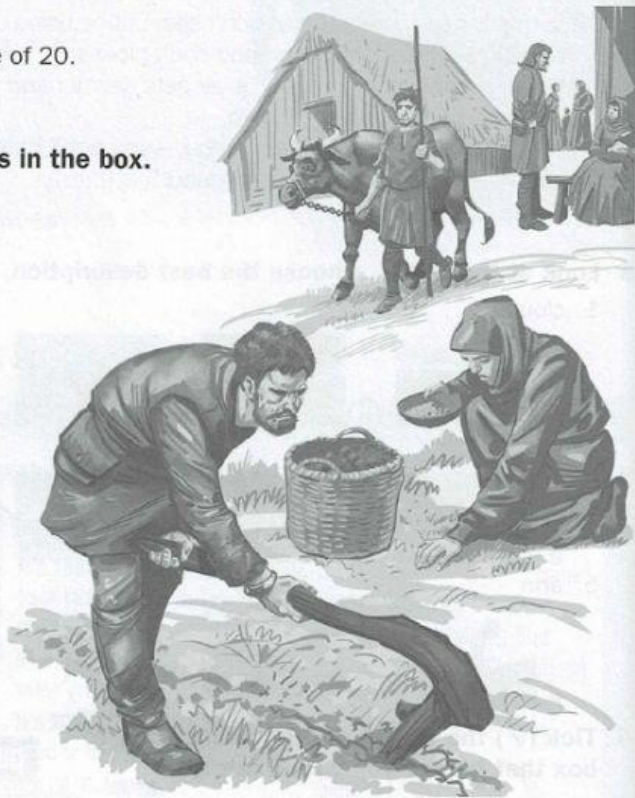
A thousand years ago ...

- a lot of people were / was farmers.
- not many people were / was in towns.
- there were / was education but only for the rich.
- a person was / were usually married before the age of 20.
- life were / was difficult.
- 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
<i>school</i>	





#### 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.

**Al:** 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

