7A Selfies

My life is a simple thing that would interest nobody. It is a known fact that I was born, and that is all that is necessary.
Albert Einstein, German scientist

G past simple of *be*: *was / were* | V word formation: *write* → *writer* | P sentence stress

1 GRAMMAR past simple of *be*

a Circle the correct word.

1 This watch *was / were* a present.
2 *Was / Were* those headphones expensive?
3 I *wasn't / weren't* hungry this morning.
4 We *was / were* at Laura's party last night.
5 The teacher *wasn't / weren't* here yesterday.
6 *Was / Were* you late for work this morning?
7 It *was / were* really cold last night.
8 Matt and Alice *wasn't / weren't* at the meeting last week.

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

A Who's that woman?
B It's Louise Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun.
A Why [1] *was* _____ she famous?
B She [2] _____ a painter. This self-portrait is in the National Gallery in London.
A [3] _____ she English?
B No, she [4] _____. She [5] _____ French. She [6] _____ born in Paris.
A And [7] _____ her paintings popular in her lifetime?
B Yes, they [8] _____ very popular.

c Complete the conversations with present or past forms of *be*. Use contractions where possible.

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 boyfriend from?
B He _____ born in England, but his parents _____ born in Singapore.

5 A Why _____ your boss angry yesterday?
B Because I _____ very late for work.

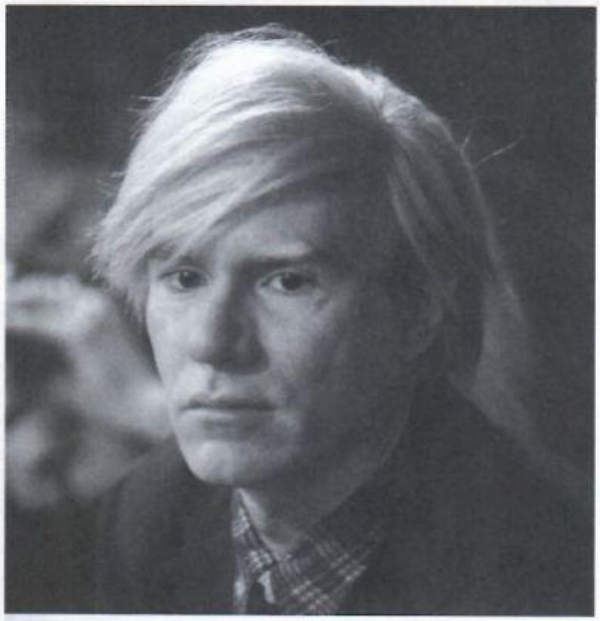
d Answer the questions about you.

1 Where were you born?
I was born in _____.
2 Where were you last August?
I was _____.
2 Were you at a party at the weekend?
_____.
3 Were you tired yesterday morning?
_____.
4 Where were you this time yesterday?
_____.
5 Were you at home last night?
_____.
6 Were you late for school / work today?
_____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 PRONUNCIATION sentence stress

a 7.1 Listen and repeat. Copy the rhythm.



A Who was Andy Warhol?
B He was an artist.
A Was he English?
B No, he wasn't. He was American.
A When was he born?
B He was born in 1928.
A Were his parents American?
B No, they weren't.

b 7.2 Listen. Say the sentences in the past simple.

1 *I'm at work.* *I was at work.*

3 VOCABULARY word formation

a Make jobs from words in the list and write them in the chart.

act art compose dance direct invent music
novel paint piano politics science sing write

-er	-or	-ist	-ian
composer			

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

1 Rudolf Nureyev *was a dancer.*
2 Beethoven and Mozart *were composers.*
3 James Dean _____.
4 Marie Curie _____.
5 Janis Joplin _____.
6 The Wright brothers _____.
7 Agatha Christie _____.
8 Degas and Toulouse-Lautrec _____.

c Write questions and answers.

1 Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor / actors? ✔
Were Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor actors?
Yes, they were.
2 Alexander Graham Bell / artist? ✘ (inventor)
Was Alexander Graham Bell an artist?
No, he wasn't. He was an inventor.
3 Charlotte Bronte / novelist? ✔
_____?
_____.
4 Frida Kahlo / pianist? ✘ (artist)
_____?
_____.
5 J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis / musicians? ✘ (writers)
_____?
_____.
6 David Bowie / singer? ✔
_____?
_____.
7 Vivaldi and Bach / composers? ✔
_____?
_____.
8 Dante Alighieri / politician? ✘ (poet)
_____?
_____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS