

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 ¹was 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.

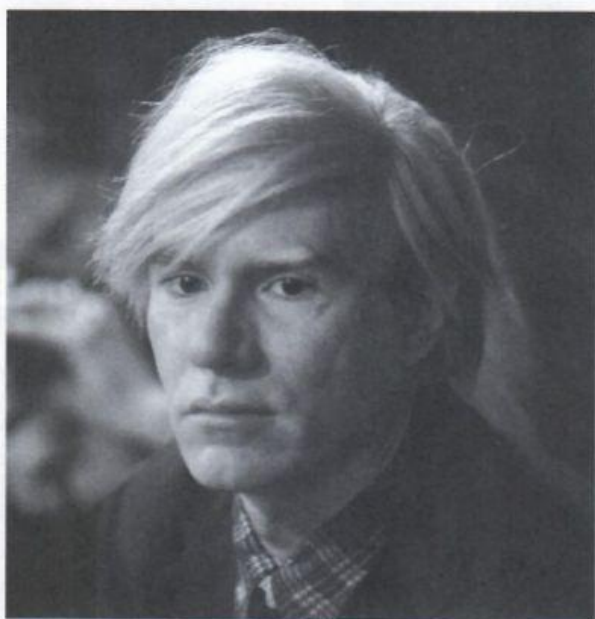
- 1 A What day is it today?
 B Monday. Yesterday was Sunday.
- 2 A Hi. is your sister at home?
 B No, she isn't. She was here this morning, but now she isn't at work.
- 3 A I can't find my keys. Where are they?
 B I don't know. They were on your desk this morning.
- 4 A Where are your new boyfriend from?
 B He is born in England, but his parents are born in Singapore.
- 5 A Why was your boss angry yesterday?
 B Because I was 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?
 _____.

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.

- Rudolf Nureyev was a dancer.
- Beethoven and Mozart were composers.
- James Dean _____
- Marie Curie _____
- Janis Joplin _____
- The Wright brothers _____
- Agatha Christie _____
- Degas and Toulouse-Lautrec _____

c Write questions and answers.



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

Go online for more practice