



New Message

Hi Rona

Sorry, I wasn't at home on Saturday but I was busy. It was my sister's birthday so my family were at her house. It was a great party! How was your weekend? Can we meet tomorrow?

Best wishes

Sam

Presentation

Use *was/were* to talk about the past.

Present	Past
am/is	was
are	were

Affirmative

I / He / She / It	was	busy.
You / We / They	were	

Yes/No questions

Was	I / he / she / it	
Were	you / we / they	at the party?

Negative

I / He / She / It	wasn't	at home on Saturday.
You / We / They	weren't	

Short answers

Yes,	I / he / she / it	was.
	you / we / they	were.
No,	I / he / she / it	wasn't.
	you / we / they	weren't.

Key vocabulary Time references: yesterday, last night, on Saturday, last year, in 1999

Special days: birthday, party, wedding, anniversary

Exercises

1 Read the email. Choose the correct forms.



New Message

Hello Sam

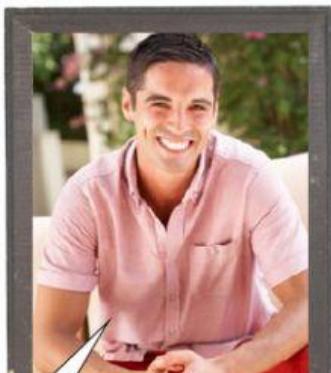
I ¹was / were busy on Sunday. It ² was / were my parents' 25th wedding anniversary. My brothers and sisters ³ was / were all at their house for the party. It ⁴ was / were great fun!

How ⁵ was / were your sister's birthday? ⁶ Was / Were there many people at her party?

Can you meet me at five tomorrow?

Rona

2 Read about George's parents and Yukio's twin brothers. Are sentences 1–8 true (T) or false (F)?



My father and mother were born in 1957. He was from the USA but they were at Oxford University in England and their wedding was in England. Last year was their 25th wedding anniversary.

My brothers were born on 25th October, 1989. They were both at school at the same time but they weren't at the same university. Last week they were both twenty-one years old. There was a big party at our house for them.

- 1 George's parents were born in the same year. _____
- 2 They were from the USA. _____
- 3 His mother was at Oxford University. _____
- 4 Their wedding was last year. _____
- 5 Yukio's brothers were born on the same day. _____
- 6 They weren't at the same school. _____
- 7 Their twenty-first birthday was last week. _____
- 8 It wasn't a big party. _____

3 Complete the conversations with **was**, **were**, **wasn't** or **weren't**. Then listen and check.

Conversation 1

A: Hello, Nancy. How ¹ your weekend?

B: Great! Mike and I ² in New York.

A: That's amazing!

B: It ³ my birthday.

A: Happy Birthday!

Conversation 2

C: ⁴ James here this morning?

D: No, he ⁵

C: Where ⁶ he?

D: I think he ⁷ in a meeting with Sue and Rona. They ⁸ in Sue's office.

C: No, they ⁹ because I was with Sue in her office all morning!

Conversation 3

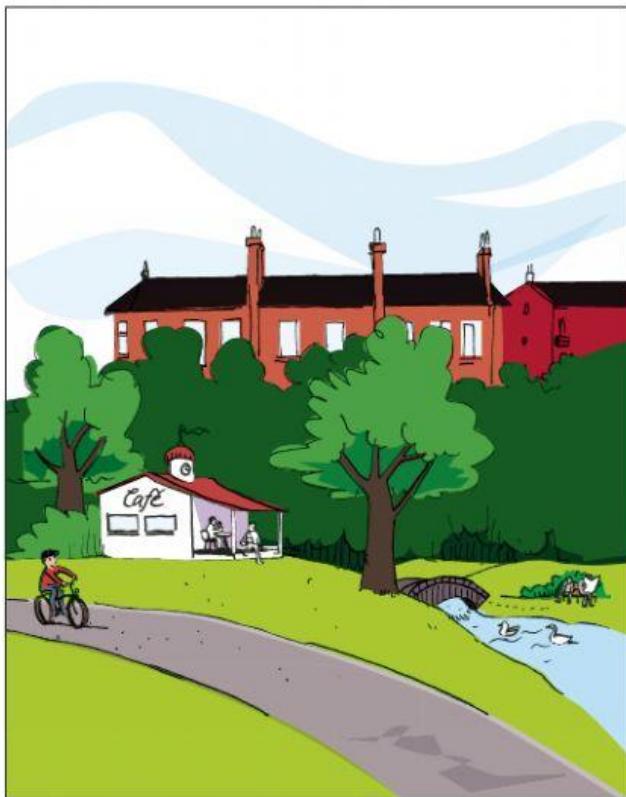
E: How ¹⁰ your sister's wedding?

F: Really good!

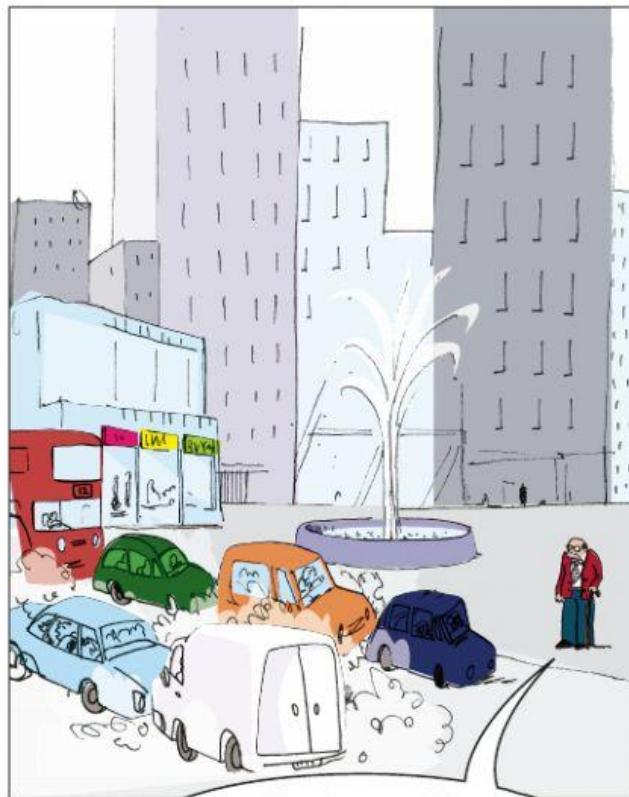
E: ¹¹ it big?

F: No, there ¹² many people, just family and good friends.

When I was a child ...



Now



When I was a child,
there was a park and a river with a bridge
across it. I think there was a café on the left
and there were some trees and houses
behind it. And twenty years ago there weren't
these shops and the road in front wasn't
busy with all these cars.

Presentation

Affirmative and negative

There	was	a	park.
	wasn't		
	were	some	houses.

Yes/No questions

Was	there	a	park?
Were		any	houses?

Short answers

Yes, there was/were.

No, there wasn't/weren't.

Key vocabulary Places in town: park, shop, café, road, cinema, pedestrian crossing, playground, bridge, skyscraper
Location: in front, behind, on the left/right, near here, next to, in the middle, across

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

1 There was a cinema next to the post office.

2 When I was a boy, three houses here. Now it's an office block.

3 A: Was there a busy road here?
B: No, . It was quiet.

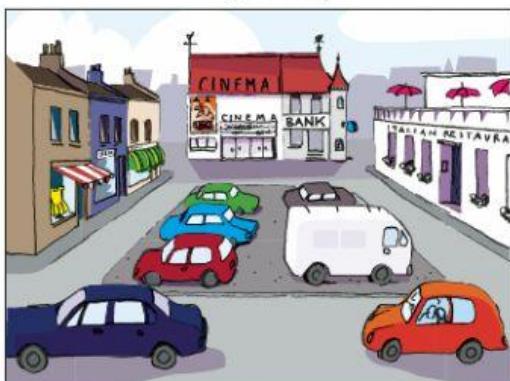
4 a shop but there was a café.

5 A: Were there houses or skyscrapers?
B: When I was here two years ago, I think some skyscrapers.

6 A: Were there any trees next to the pond?
B: No, .

2 Look at the pictures and answer the questions.

Two years ago



Now



1 Was there a road here?
2 Was there a market in the square?
3 Was there a café next to the bank?
4 Were there any shops on the left?
5 Were there two restaurants on the right?
6 Was there a pedestrian crossing?
7 Was there an Indian restaurant?

Yes, there was.

No, there wasn't. There were cars.

3 Match 1–8 to a–h.

1 Was there a café
2 When I was a student, there
3 Last year there were
4 Two years ago, I
5 When I was child,
6 Were there
7 Was
8 Was there a shop on the corner? No,

a there was a playground in the park.
b on the left?
c there wasn't.
d think there was a bank next to the cinema.
e wasn't a library here.
f two restaurants on the right.
g there a car park here?
h two bridges across the river?