

## Language at work | Past simple: *be* and regular verbs

1 ▶ 5.2 Listen to a conversation between Janusz and Carlos and choose the correct answers.

- 1 Janusz was at a *meeting / presentation* about branding.
- 2 It was at *breakfast / lunchtime*.
- 3 Carlos *was / wasn't* in the office yesterday.

2 ▶ 5.2 Listen again. Complete the conversation with *was, wasn't, were* or *weren't*.

Janusz Sorry I'm late. I <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ at the presentation on branding.

Carlos Oh, <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ that this morning?

Janusz Yes, at 7.30 in the Century Hotel.

Carlos Oh. <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ it good?

Janusz Yes, the presentation <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ really interesting, and there <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ lots of good questions at the end.

Carlos <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ there many people there?

Janusz There <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ many people for the breakfast at the start, but there <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ lots for the presentation. It <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ too early for some people!

Carlos <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ you on time?

Janusz Of course! But the breakfast <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ very good. Anyway, why <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ you in the office yesterday?

Carlos There <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ terrible problems with my flight back from Rome ...

3 Complete *Language point 1* about the past simple for *be*. Use *was, wasn't, were* and *weren't*.

### LANGUAGE POINT 1

#### Positive

I/He/She/It \_\_\_\_\_ late.

You/We/They \_\_\_\_\_ late.

#### Negative

I/He/She/It \_\_\_\_\_ late.

You/We/They \_\_\_\_\_ late.

#### Questions

\_\_\_\_\_ I/he/she/it late?

\_\_\_\_\_ you/we/they late?

#### Short answers

Yes, I/he/she/it \_\_\_\_\_.

No, I/he/she/it \_\_\_\_\_.

Yes, you/we/they \_\_\_\_\_.

No, you/we/they \_\_\_\_\_.

We can make negative questions with *wasn't* and *weren't*.

*Example: Why weren't you in the office yesterday? Wasn't your flight on time?*

» For more information, go to **Grammar reference** on page 95.

4 Work with a partner. Ask and answer questions about a report. Student A, turn to page 111. Student B, turn to page 118.

**10.1** Where were these people at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon?



- 1 Joe was in bed. 4 .....
- 2 Jack and Kate ..... 5 .....
- 3 Sue ..... 6 And you? I .....

**10.2** Write **am/is/are** (present) or **was/were** (past).

- 1 Last year she was 22, so she is 23 now.
- 2 Today the weather ..... nice, but yesterday it ..... very cold.
- 3 I ..... hungry. Can I have something to eat?
- 4 I feel fine this morning, but I ..... very tired last night.
- 5 Where ..... you at 11 o'clock last Friday morning?
- 6 Don't buy those shoes. They ..... very expensive.
- 7 I like your new jacket. .... it expensive?
- 8 This time last year I ..... in Paris.
- 9 'Where ..... Sam and Joe?' 'I don't know. They ..... here a few minutes ago.'

**10.3** Write **was/were** or **wasn't/weren't**.

- 1 We weren't happy with the hotel. Our room was very small and it wasn't clean.
- 2 Mark ..... at work last week because he ..... ill. He's better now.
- 3 Yesterday ..... a public holiday, so the banks ..... closed. They're open today.
- 4 '..... Kate and Ben at the party?' 'Kate ..... there, but Ben .....
- 5 Where are my keys? They ..... on the table, but they're not there now.
- 6 You ..... at home last night. Where ..... you?

**10.4** Write questions from these words + **was/were**. Put the words in the right order.

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|--|---|
| <p>1 (late / you / this morning / why?)<br/><u>Why were you late this morning?</u></p> <p>2 (difficult / your exam?)<br/>.....</p> <p>3 (last week / where / Sue and Chris?)<br/>.....</p> <p>4 (your new camera / how much?)<br/>.....</p> <p>5 (angry / you / yesterday / why?)<br/>.....</p> <p>6 (nice / the weather / last week?)<br/>.....</p> | <p>→ The traffic was bad.</p> <p>→ No, it was easy.</p> <p>→ They were on holiday.</p> <p>→ A hundred pounds.</p> <p>→ Because you were late.</p> <p>→ Yes, it was beautiful.</p> |
|--|---|

Put *was*, *wasn't*, *were* or *weren't* in the gaps in these conversations.

Peter: (▶) *Was*..... Paul at work today?

Julie: No, he (1)..... in the office. I think he's sick.

Henry: (2)..... you in South America last year?

Steve: Yes. I (3)..... in Bolivia on business, and then my wife and I (4)..... in Brazil for a holiday.

Paula: Philip and I (5)..... at home in London last week. We (6)..... at Mike's house in Cornwall. It was lovely there. Do you know Mike?

Jane: Yes, I (7)..... at Mike's party in Oxford in the summer. (8)..... you there?

Paula: No, we weren't there. Philip and I (9)..... in Portugal in the summer.

### Student A

- 1 You weren't at a presentation last week. Your partner was. Check if the report below is correct.

**Example:** *Was the presentation on Tuesday morning?*

**Presentation:** Future plans

**Time:** Tuesday morning (?)

**Present:** Jan, Lydia, Janusz, Carlos (?)

**Venue:** The conference room (?)

**Speaker:** Managing Director (?)

- 2 Now answer your partner's questions about this report.

**Presentation:** Profits for this year

**Time:** Wednesday morning

**Present:** Jan, Lydia, Janusz, Carlos, Piotr

**Venue:** The conference room

**Speaker:** Financial Director

## Student B

- 1 Your partner wants to know if the report below is correct. You were at the presentation last week. Your partner wasn't. Answer his/her questions

**Example:** *Was the presentation on Tuesday morning?*

**Presentation:** Future plans

**Time:** Tuesday morning

**Present:** Jan, Lydia, Carlos

**Venue:** Room 305

**Speaker:** Managing Director

- 2 Now ask your partner questions about this report.

**Presentation:** Profits for this year

**Time:** Thursday morning (?)

**Present:** Jan, Janusz, Lydia, Carlos (?)

**Venue:** The conference room (?)

**Speaker:** Managing Director and  
Financial Director (?)

**Create your comic strip using was/were**