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 [1]_____ at the presentation on branding.
Carlos Oh, [2]_____ that this morning?
Janusz Yes, at 7.30 in the Century Hotel.
Carlos Oh. [3]_____ it good?
Janusz Yes, the presentation [4]_____ really interesting, and there [5]_____ lots of good questions at the end.
Carlos [6]_____ there many people there?
Janusz There [7]_____ many people for the breakfast at the start, but there [8]_____ lots for the presentation. It [9]_____ too early for some people!
Carlos [10]_____ you on time?
Janusz Of course! But the breakfast [11]_____ very good. Anyway, why [12]_____ you in the office yesterday?
Carlos There [13]_____ 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.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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



1 Joe was in bed.
2 Jack and Kate .....
3 Sue .....
4 .....
5 .....
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.

1 (late / you / this morning / why?)
Why were you late this morning? → The traffic was bad.

2 (difficult / your exam?)
..... → No, it was easy.

3 (last week / where / Sue and Chris?)
..... → They were on holiday.

4 (your new camera / how much?)
..... → A hundred pounds.

5 (angry / you / yesterday / why?)
..... → Because you were late.

6 (nice / the weather / last week?)
..... → Yes, it was beautiful.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Am, is, are, was, were - Exercise

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS