

Language at work | was / were

- 1 ►8.3 Donald Jones is in his office. Alice asks about his business trip.
Match the words to the time phrases.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Dubai ____ | a last Wednesday and Thursday |
| 2 Oman and the UAE ____ | b yesterday |
| 3 Muscat ____ | c last week |
| 4 on holiday ____ | d for five days |

- 2 ►8.3 Listen to the conversation again. Underline was, were, wasn't, or weren't.

Alice Hi, Donald. Where were you yesterday?

Donald In Dubai. I ¹was / were in Oman and the UAE for five days.

Alice Oh, yes. How ²was / were your trip?

Donald OK. Our clients in Muscat ³was / were very happy with the new machines.

Alice Great! Was Muscat nice?

Donald I don't know, because I ⁴wasn't / weren't there very long. Er ... I was in Muscat last Wednesday and Thursday and then there ⁵was / were two meetings in Dubai yesterday. But they ⁶wasn't / weren't very useful. And what about you? ⁷Was / Were you busy last week?

Alice I ⁸wasn't / weren't here. I was on holiday.

- 3 Complete the Language point with am / is / are, was / were or wasn't / weren't.

LANGUAGE POINT

We use _____ for the verb *be* in the present.

We use _____ for the verb *be* in the past.

We use _____ for the past of the verb *be* in the negative.

» For more information, go to **Grammar reference** on page 71.

- 4 ►8.4 Read the next part of the conversation. Complete with was, were, wasn't, or weren't. Then listen and check.

Donald How ¹_____ your holiday?

Alice Great. We ²_____ in Barcelona for six days.

Donald I was in Barcelona last year. It was a sales conference, so it ³_____ a holiday. The restaurants ⁴_____ very good, but the city ⁵_____ busy. Were there hundreds of tourists?

Alice No, there ⁶_____. It was quiet in the centre.

- 5 Work in pairs. Last week Donald and Alice were on a business trip. Look at the pictures. Say sentences about the trip.

Example: They were in Paris last Monday ...

