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A Beautiful City

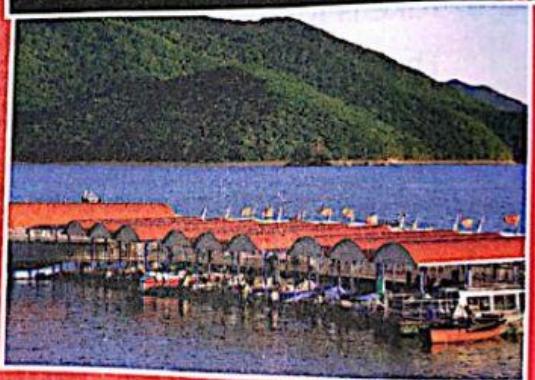
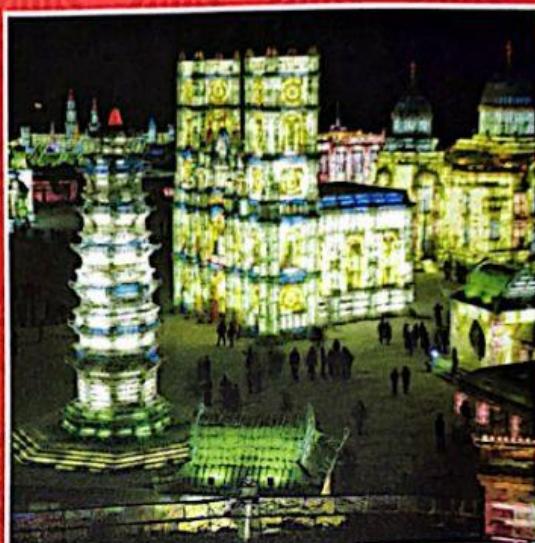
Discover Grammar

A Listen and read.  06

Every year in Harbin, China, there's a festival of ice and snow. This is the ice city. It wasn't here in fall. Imagine! All these amazing buildings weren't here. This was a field!

The ice is from the Songhua River. It was water in summer! But now, in winter, it's ice. The statues were big blocks of ice and snow. Now they're beautiful sculptures of people and animals.

Harbin is very cold in winter. But in spring, it gets warm. The ice melts. There was an amazing city of snow and ice here. But now it's water again. It wasn't a dream! Come back next winter!

B Read the text again. Circle the simple past of *to be*.

C Match the beginnings and ends of the sentences.

1 The river	•	• a were big blocks of ice and snow.
2 The ice city	•	• b was water in summer.
3 The statues	•	• c weren't here. This was a field!
4 The amazing buildings	•	• d wasn't here in fall.

Learn Grammar

A Read and learn.

Learn Grammar

Simple Past of Verb To Be

Affirmative and Negative Statements

We can use the simple past of *to be* to talk about things in the past.

The statues **were** solid ice. I **wasn't** in Harbin yesterday.



Watch out! The verb *to be* is irregular in the simple past.

Affirmative		Negative	
I	was	I	wasn't (was not)
He / She / It		He / She / It	
You		You	
We	were	We	weren't (were not)
They		They	
	cold. pretty.		cold. pretty.

There was and *there were* are the simple past forms of *there is* and *there are*.

Singular	Plural
There was	an ice city.

B Read and circle the correct words.

Girl This is a picture of the ice city in Harbin.

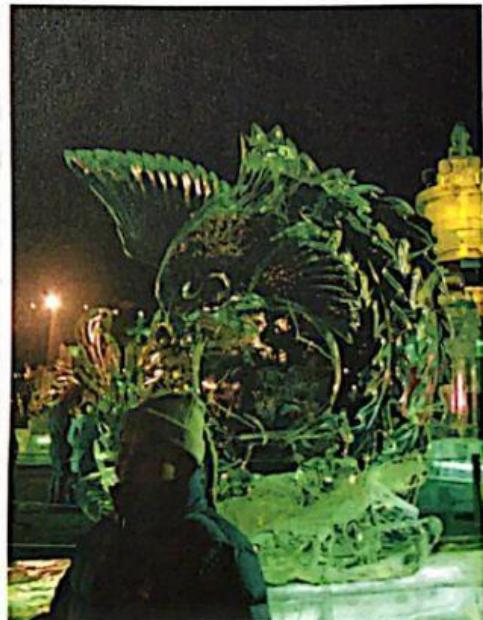
Boy Wow! It's amazing.

Girl Yes, it ¹ **was** / **were** very big. The statues
² **was** / **were** beautiful.

Boy I ³ **was** / **were** in Harbin last summer.

It ⁴ **was** / **were** hot and sunny.

Girl Oh! It ⁵ **wasn't** / **weren't** hot in January!



C Listen and check. 07

D Act it out!

E Read and circle the correct words.

¹ There was / There were a lot of people. ² There was / There were a big statue of a man. ³ There was / There were pretty colored lights and ⁴ there was / there were fireworks. ⁵ There was / There were an ice slide and ⁶ there was / there were a horse. I love the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival!

F Read and write was or were.

Dear Grandma,

This is a postcard from the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival.

The festival ¹ _____ great! The weather ² _____ very cold. The ice city ³ _____ amazing. The statues ⁴ _____ beautiful.

We ⁵ _____ very happy. At the end of the day, I ⁶ _____ tired and hungry.

Dinner at our hotel ⁷ _____ delicious. Our holiday in China ⁸ _____ great!

Love, Michelle

G Read Grandma's email and circle the correct words.

Hi Michelle,

Thank you for your postcard! I was in Harbin in spring. The weather ¹ **wasn't** / **weren't** cold. It ² **was** / **were** warm but it ³ **was** / **were** rainy. The ice city ⁴ **wasn't** / **weren't** there! It melts in spring. The statues ⁵ **was** / **were** all water again. The river ⁶ **wasn't** / **weren't** ice. It ⁷ **was** / **were** water, too. But the people ⁸ **wasn't** / **weren't** sad! They can see the ice again in winter. Harbin ⁹ **was** / **were** very pretty in spring.

Love, Grandma



H Write sentences with **was**, **wasn't**, **were**, or **weren't**.

1 ✓ We / at the festival

We **were** at the festival.

2 ✓ The fireworks / beautiful

The fireworks **were** beautiful.

3 ✗ I / tired

I **was** tired.

4 ✗ We / cold

We **weren't** cold.

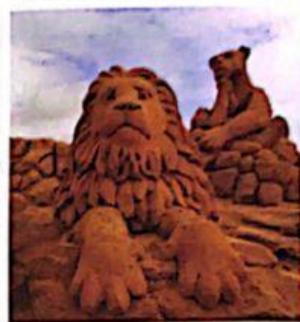
5 ✓ The festival / great

The festival **was** great.

I Read and complete.

was wasn't were weren't

This is the sand sculpture festival in Mexico. I ¹ _____ ✓ there last summer. There ² _____ ✓ a lot of sculptures on the beach. The sculptures ³ _____ ✓ funny. It ⁴ _____ ✓ summer. The weather ⁵ _____ ✓ hot. It ⁶ _____ ✗ cold! The festival ⁷ _____ ✓ great. The sculptures ⁸ _____ ✗ small. They ⁹ _____ ✓ big! There ¹⁰ _____ ✓ a man on the beach with ice creams. We ¹¹ _____ ✓ hot. The ice creams ¹² _____ ✓ delicious.



Let's Talk!

J Read about Michelle's school. Circle the verb **to be**.

My name is Michelle. This year, I am 7 years old. I am in grade 2. My teacher is Mrs. Li. My class is nice. There are 21 students in my class. My friends are in my class. I am happy at school!

K Change the blue words to make the text true for you. Tell a friend.

L Now write about last year. What was different? Use the simple past of **to be**.

My name is _____ . Last year, I was _____ years old. _____