

My life is a simple thing that would interest nobody. It is a known fact that I was born, and that is all that is necessary.  
Albert Einstein, German scientist

## 1 GRAMMAR past simple of be

### a Circle the correct word.

- 1 This watch was / were a present.
- 2 Was / Were those headphones expensive?
- 3 I wasn't / weren't hungry this morning.
- 4 We was / were at Laura's party last night.
- 5 The teacher wasn't / weren't here yesterday.
- 6 Was / Were you late for work this morning?
- 7 It was / were really cold last night.
- 8 Matt and Alice wasn't / weren't at the meeting last week.

### b Complete the sentences with was, were, wasn't, or weren't.



A Who's that woman?  
 B It's Louise Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun.  
 A Why <sup>1</sup>was she famous?  
 B She <sup>2</sup>was a painter. This self-portrait is in the National Gallery in London.  
 A <sup>3</sup>Was she English?  
 B No, she <sup>4</sup>wasn't. She <sup>5</sup>was French. She <sup>6</sup>was born in Paris.  
 A And <sup>7</sup>were her paintings popular in her lifetime?  
 B Yes, they <sup>8</sup>were very popular.

### c Complete the conversations with present or past forms of be. Use contractions where possible.

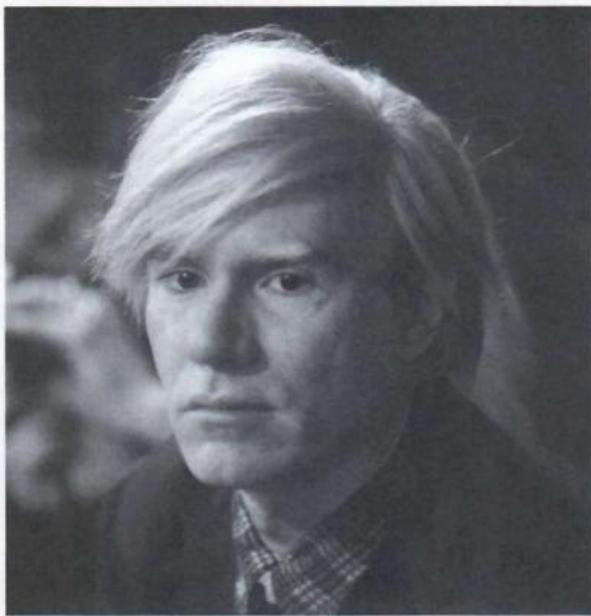
- 1 A What day is it today?  
 B Monday. Yesterday was Sunday.
- 2 A Hi. Is your sister at home?  
 B No, she isn't. She was here this morning, but now she is at work.
- 3 A I can't find my keys. Where are they?  
 B I don't know. They were on your desk this morning.
- 4 A Where is your new boyfriend from?  
 B He was born in England, but his parents were born in Singapore.
- 5 A Why were your boss angry yesterday?  
 B Because I was very late for work.

### d Answer the questions about you.

- 1 Where were you born?  
 I was born in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Where were you last August?  
 I was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Were you at a party at the weekend?  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Were you tired yesterday morning?  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Where were you this time yesterday?  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Were you at home last night?  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Were you late for school / work today?  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2 PRONUNCIATION sentence stress

a ⑦.1 Listen and repeat. Copy the rhythm.



A Who was Andy Warhol?  
 B He was an artist.  
 A Was he English?  
 B No, he wasn't. He was American.  
 A When was he born?  
 B He was born in 1928.  
 A Were his parents American?  
 B No, they weren't.

b ⑦.2 Listen. Say the sentences in the past simple.

1 i) I'm at work. (I was at work.

## 3 VOCABULARY word formation

a Make jobs from words in the list and write them in the chart.

act art compose dance direct invent music  
 novel paint piano politics science sing write

-er	-or	-ist	-ian
composer			

b Complete the sentences with was / were and a noun from a.

1 Rudolf Nureyev was a dancer.  
 2 Beethoven and Mozart were composers.  
 3 James Dean \_\_\_\_\_.  
 4 Marie Curie \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5 Janis Joplin \_\_\_\_\_.  
 6 The Wright brothers \_\_\_\_\_.  
 7 Agatha Christie \_\_\_\_\_.  
 8 Degas and Toulouse-Lautrec \_\_\_\_\_.

c Write questions and answers.



1 Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor / actors? ✓  
Were Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor actors?  
Yes, they were.

2 Alexander Graham Bell / artist? ✗ (inventor)  
Was Alexander Graham Bell an artist?  
No, he wasn't. He was an inventor.

3 Charlotte Bronte / novelist? ✓

\_\_\_\_\_?

4 Frida Kahlo / pianist? ✗ (artist)

\_\_\_\_\_?

5 J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis / musicians? ✗ (writers)

?

6 David Bowie / singer? ✓

?

7 Vivaldi and Bach / composers? ✓

?

8 Dante Alighieri / politician? ✗ (poet)

?

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