

- A**
- ▶ The past simple of the verb to be is **was** for first and third person singular (**I, he, she, it**) and **were** for first, second and third person plural (**we, you, they**).
He **was** in France two weeks ago. We **were** very busy yesterday morning.
 - ▶ To make the negative, we put **not** after **was** or **were**. The short forms are **wasn't** and **weren't**.
They **were not** here last night. They **weren't** here last night.
 - ▶ In the question form, we put **was** or **were** before the subject.
Was George at the party on Sunday? Where **were** they last night?

- B**
- ▶ The past simple of **there is** and **there are** is **there was** and **there were**.
There **were** a lot of people here two hours ago.
 - ▶ To make the negative we put **not** after **was** or **were**. The short forms are **wasn't** and **weren't**.
There **weren't** any phone calls for you yesterday.
 - ▶ In the question form, we put **was** or **were** before **there**.
Were there many people on the beach yesterday?

Grammar practice

1 Complete with **was** or **were**.

- 1 It **was** very hot last week.
- 2 I in the school basketball team last year.
- 3 All my friends at the party on Saturday.
- 4 John and his brother here ten minutes ago.
- 5 My cousin in Paris last month.
- 6 You late yesterday!
- 7 Sue and I at the theatre last night.
- 8 The film great!

2 Complete with the right form of **there was** or **there were**.

- 1 **There was** a call for you ten minutes ago.
- 2 no one in the room. It was empty.
- 3 a great film on TV last night.
- 4 a lot of people at the cinema last night.
- 5 no mobile phones a hundred years ago.
- 6 a post office next to my house five years ago.
- 7 twenty five people at Pat's party last week.

Tip

If the noun that follows is singular we use **there was**.
There was a call for you ten minutes ago.

3 Look at the table and correct the sentences.

Yesterday afternoon....

Peter	at the sports club
Kikki	at home
Stanley	in the park
Leslie	at the dentist
Cosmo and Suzie	in the garden
Aunt Agatha	at the hairdresser's
Peter and Kikki's parents	at the theatre

- Peter was at the shopping centre.
Wrong! He wasn't at the shopping centre. He was at the sports club.
- Kikki was at the cinema.
.....
- Stanley was at the theatre.
.....
- Leslie was at school.
.....
- Cosmo and Suzie were at the hairdresser's.
.....

4 Look at the table in exercise 3 and answer.

- Was Peter at the sports club? Yes, he was.
- Was Kikki at the theatre?
- Was Stanley in the park?
- Was Leslie at the cinema?
- Were Cosmo and Suzie in the garden?
- Were Peter and Kikki's parents at the library?
- Was Aunt Agatha at home?
- Were you at school yesterday afternoon?

Tip

In short answers we use the personal pronoun and **was** or **were**, **wasn't** or **weren't**. We do not repeat the rest of the sentence.
Was Peter at the sports club?
Yes, he was.

5 Form questions.

- John / at the party / on Saturday?
Was John at the party on Saturday?
- it / cold / last week?
.....
- you / at home / last night?
.....
- your brother / with you / yesterday?
.....
- they / in Germany / last summer?
.....
- she / your English teacher / last year?
.....

Tip

To make a question we put **was** or **were** at the beginning of the sentence, before the subject.

Was John at the party on Saturday?
~~John was at the party on Saturday? X~~

6 Form questions.

- 1 Where / John / yesterday morning?
Where was John yesterday morning?
- 2 When / Mary / in London?
.....
- 3 How old / you / two years ago?
.....
- 4 Why / he / late / yesterday morning?
.....
- 5 Where / your parents / at ten o'clock last night?
.....
- 6 Why / Peter sad / last night?
.....

Tip

After question words and phrases, we use the question form of the verb, so we put **was** or **were** before the subject.

Where was John yesterday morning?

~~Where John was yesterday morning?~~ X

7 Read and complete.

TeenLink



This is a picture of our town one hundred years ago!

It (1) **was** a quiet little town.

There (2) any cars in the streets.

There (3) only horses and carriages.

The air (4) cleaner and people

(5) happier.

There (6) many shops in High Street, just a bakery, a greengrocer's and a teasop.

Postmen (7) very busy! Their bags

(8) full of letters.

There (9) any computers or mobile phones then.

There (10) only three telephones in the whole town!

Everything was different one hundred years ago!

Stanley Davis

Writing practice

8 Write.

Look at exercise 7. Write to **TeenLink** about your town one hundred years ago.

Dear TeenLink,

..... was a quiet little town one hundred years ago. There were

.....

.....

.....

.....

Oral practice

Now you can do **oral activity 17** (Teacher's Resource File).