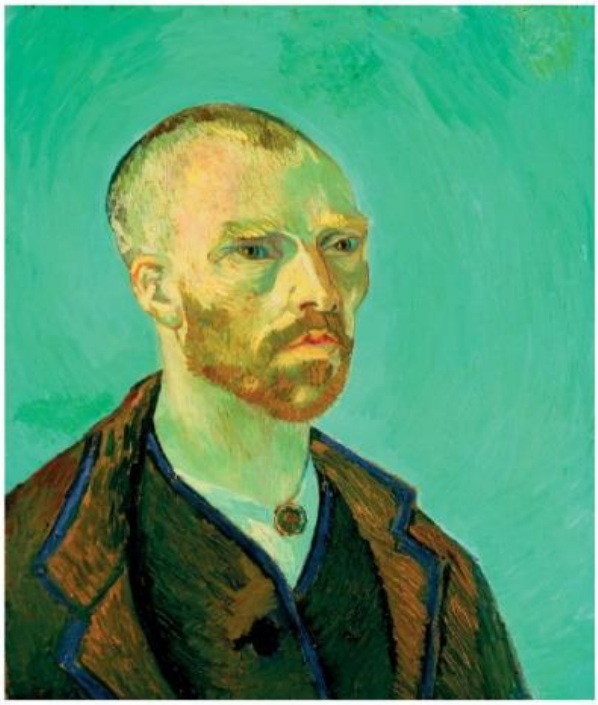
GRAMMAR Past Simple of BE



a Look at a self-portrait by a famous painter. Answer the questions.

1. Do you know who he is?
2. How old do you think he is in this painting?
3. Do you know any of his paintings? Do you like them?

b Listen to an audio guide. Check your answers to questions 1 and 2 in a.

c Listen again, choose a, b or c

1 He was born in _____ in 1853.

2 His parents weren't _____.

3 Before he was a painter, he was a _____ .

4 There are ___ photos of him when he was young.

5. This self-portrait was a present for the painter _____.

6. The relationship between the two painters wasn't _____ .

7. He was only _____ when he died.

8. During his life, his paintings were _____ .

d Look at the highlighted verbs and complete the chart.

[was] [I, she, he, it] [weren't] [wasn't] [you, we, they] [were]

Present	is / am	isn't	are	aren't
Past				
Persons				

LIVEWORKSHEETS

7A past simple of *be*: *was / were*

Vincent van Gogh **was** an artist. 7.2
Was he Dutch or French?
She **wasn't** in class yesterday.
The Beatles **were** famous in the 1960s.
Where **were** you last night? You **weren't** at home.

- We use *was / were* to talk about the past.
- We often use *was / were* with past time expressions, e.g. *yesterday, last night, in 2014*, etc.
- We use *was / were* with *born*.
  I ***was born*** *in Scotland.*

+		−	
I / He / She / It	**was** there.	I / He / She / It	**wasn't** there.
You / We / They	**were** there.	You / We / They	**weren't** there.

?			✓	✗
Was	I / he / she / it	famous?	Yes, I **was**.	No, I **wasn't**.
Were	you / we / they		Yes, you **were**.	No, you **weren't**.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

a Rewrite the sentences in the past simple.

	present simple	Yesterday
	My father's at work.	My father was at work.
1	She's at home today.	_____ at home.
2	Where are you now?	Where _____?
3	I'm in Edinburgh.	_____ in Edinburgh.
4	Is it hot today?	_____ hot?
5	It isn't open now.	_____ open.
6	They aren't in the office.	_____ in the office.
7	We're in Rome now.	_____ in Rome.
8	They're tired.	_____ tired.
9	We aren't late.	_____ late.
10	I'm not at school.	_____ at school.

b Complete the conversation with *was, wasn't, were,* or *weren't.*

A Were you and Charlie at the concert last night?
B Yes, we [1]_____.
A [2]_____ it good?
B No, it [3]_____. The singer [4]_____ terrible.
A [5]_____ the tickets expensive?
B Yes, they [6]_____.

C Where [7]_____ your mother born?
D She [8]_____ born in Argentina in 1955.
C [9]_____ her parents Argentinian?
D No, they [10]_____. Her father [11]_____ German and her mother [12]_____ from Italy.

LIVEWORKSHEETS