

6

The past

6.1 Don't give up!

Grammar *was* and *were*

1 Make positive (+) or negative (-) sentences, or questions (?) using the past form of *be*.

- 1 (+) the co-founders of Microsoft / Bill Gates and Paul Allen *The co-founders of Microsoft were Bill Gates and Paul Allen.*
- 2 (?) the restaurant / expensive _____
- 3 (-) Harry's meal / very good _____
- 4 (+) I / very tired last night _____
- 5 (?) where / you / yesterday _____
- 6 (-) we / late for work this morning _____
- 7 (?) why / Vincent van Gogh / famous _____
- 8 (-) I / born in England _____

2 Choose the correct options to complete the article.

IKEA is born

Ingvar Kamprad ¹*was* / *were* the founder of the furniture company IKEA. He ²*was* / *were* born in 1926 in Sweden. His parents ³*wasn't* / *weren't* rich – they ⁴*was* / *were* farmers and the family home ⁵*was* / *were* near a small village in the south of Sweden. Ingvar ⁶*wasn't* / *weren't* interested in farming. He started IKEA in his uncle's kitchen in 1943. His first products ⁷*was* / *were* pencils and other small items. There ⁸*wasn't* / *weren't* any IKEA stores before 1958 – it ⁹*was* / *were* only possible to buy things from IKEA by mail. The first IKEA store ¹⁰*was* / *were* in Sweden, but now there are stores around the world.



3 Read the article in exercise 2 again. Complete the questions below with *was* or *were*, then write short answers.

- 1 Was Ingvar Kamprad born in Sweden?
Yes, he was.
- 2 _____ his parents rich?

- 3 _____ they farmers?

- 4 _____ Ingvar interested in farming?

- 5 _____ IKEA furniture on sale in 1950?

PRONUNCIATION the past of *to be*

4a Are the words in **bold** stressed (S) or unstressed (U)?

- 1 I **was** tired last night. U
- 2 **Was** I tired last night?
- 3 Yes, I **was**.
- 4 No, I **wasn't**.
- 5 They **were** at home last night.
- 6 **Were** they at home last night?
- 7 Yes, they **were**.
- 8 No, they **weren't**.

