

G past simple of be: was / were

V word formation: write → writer

P sentence stress

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 ¹was she famous?
 B She ² a painter. This self-portrait is in the National Gallery in London.
 A ³ she English?
 B No, she ⁴. She ⁵ French. She ⁶ born in Paris.
 A And ⁷ her paintings popular in her lifetime?
 B Yes, they ⁸ 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. _____ your sister at home?
 B No, she _____. She _____ here this morning, but now she _____ at work.
- 3 A I can't find my keys. Where _____ they?
 B I don't know. They _____ on your desk this morning.
- 4 A Where _____ your new boyfriend from?
 B He _____ born in England, but his parents _____ born in Singapore.
- 5 A Why _____ your boss angry yesterday?
 B Because I _____ 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 _____.
- 2 Were you at a party at the weekend?
 _____.
- 3 Were you tired yesterday morning?
 _____.
- 4 Where were you this time yesterday?
 _____.
- 5 Were you at home last night?
 _____.
- 6 Were you late for school / work today?
 _____.