

Past simple: *be* and *can*I can talk about the past using *be* and *can*.

## 1 Circle the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 Jason **was** / **wasn't** at school. He was on holiday.
- 2 Pete and Kate **was** / **were** at the theatre last night.
- 3 Wendy and Jo **were** / **weren't** with me. **Was** / **Were** they with you?
- 4 'Was / Were you at home last night?' 'Yes, I **was** / **were**.'
- 5 Harry **was** / **were** in Spain last summer.
- 6 The weather **was** / **were** really nice last weekend – warm and sunny.

2 Look at the table. Write sentences about where the people were. Use the past simple form of *be*, affirmative or negative.

Day	Freddy	Nola
Mon	London	Manchester
Tues	Cardiff	Cardiff
Wed	Bristol	London
Thur	Newcastle	Bristol
Fri	Liverpool	Liverpool
Sat and Sun	Plymouth	Nottingham

- 1 Freddy / Manchester / Monday  
Freddy **wasn't** in Manchester on Monday.
- 2 Nola / London / Wednesday

3 Freddy and Nola / Newcastle / Tuesday

4 Freddy / Plymouth / Saturday and Sunday

5 Nola / London / Monday

6 Freddy and Nola / Liverpool / Friday

## 3 Where were you? Write questions and true answers.

- 1 at two o'clock in the morning?

Where were you at two o'clock in the morning?  
I **was** in bed.

- 2 at ten o'clock yesterday morning?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3 at three o'clock yesterday afternoon?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 4 at seven o'clock on Friday evening?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 5 at eleven o'clock on Saturday night?

\_\_\_\_\_

4 What could Sarah and Mike do at these ages? Look at the table and write questions and answers. Use *be* and *can*.

	Sarah	Mike
swim	age three	age four
read	age five	age three
ride a bike	age six	age six

- 1 Mike / swim / three? Could Mike swim when he was three?  
No, he **couldn't**.

2 Sarah / swim / four? \_\_\_\_\_

3 Mike / read / three? \_\_\_\_\_

4 Sarah / read / four? \_\_\_\_\_

5 Mike and Sarah / ride a bike / six? \_\_\_\_\_

5 Complete the dialogue. Use the correct past simple form of *be* and *can* (affirmative, negative and interrogative).

Zoe Hi, Erin. Are you having a good time in Africa?

Erin Yes, I am. I phoned you on Saturday, but you <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ at home. Then I tried to phone you yesterday. But I <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ get a signal.

Zoe Where are you now?

Erin In Zanzibar. We arrived two days ago. Yesterday we <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ at the beach. I tried surfing, but it was really difficult – I <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ stand up!Zoe <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ there any sharks?Erin No! Well, I <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ see any!Zoe <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ you in Tanzania last week?Erin Yes, we <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. We climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. The view from the top <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ fantastic! I <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ see for miles!

Zoe Wow! That sounds amazing!