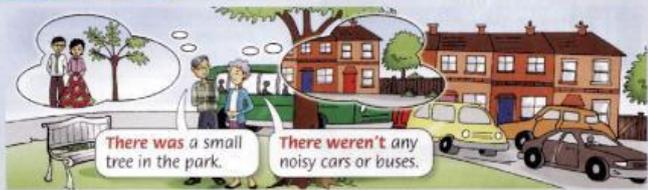


There was, there were



| Affirmative               | Negative       | Short forms   |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| there was + singular noun | there was not  | there wasn't  |
| there were + plural noun  | there were not | there weren't |

There was and there were are the past simple forms of there is and there are. There were is followed by a number or some. There wasn't + uncountable noun is followed by any. There wasn't + countable noun is followed by a, an or a number. After there weren't, we use any or a number.

There was a big park near here. There were some old cars in the museum.  
There wasn't a bus stop outside. There weren't any computers.

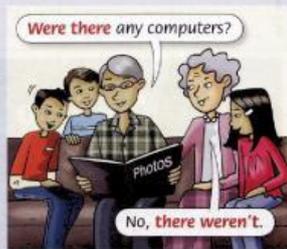
Was there ...? Were there ...?

After Was there ...? we use a or an before countable nouns and any before uncountable nouns. After Were there ...? we use any or a number.

Were there any trams?

Short answers

Yes, there was. No, there wasn't.  
Yes, there were. No, there weren't.



Was there a train station near here? Yes, there was. / No, there wasn't.  
We don't repeat the noun in short answers.

1 Look at the table about a town in England. True or false? Write T or F.

In 1958

| train stations | trams | cinemas | parks | bus stations |
|----------------|-------|---------|-------|--------------|
| 2              | ✓     | ✗       | 3     | 1            |

In 2008

| train stations | trams | cinemas | parks | bus stations |
|----------------|-------|---------|-------|--------------|
| 1              | ✗     | 1       | 2     | 1            |

- In 1958, there were three parks. T
- In 2008, there were two train stations. \_\_\_\_\_
- In 2008, there was one bus station. \_\_\_\_\_
- In 1958, there were some trams. \_\_\_\_\_
- In 1958, there was one park. \_\_\_\_\_

2 Look at the table in exercise 1. Write sentences about the town in the past using there was a, there were, there wasn't a and there weren't any.

- in 1958 / parks  
In 1958, there were three parks.
- in 2008 / bus station  
In 2008, there was one bus station.
- in 2008 / parks  
\_\_\_\_\_
- in 1958 / cinemas  
\_\_\_\_\_
- in 2008 / cinema  
\_\_\_\_\_
- in 1958 / train stations  
\_\_\_\_\_
- in 2008 / trams  
\_\_\_\_\_
- in 1958 / trams  
\_\_\_\_\_
- in 1958 / bus stations  
\_\_\_\_\_

The past simple: *have* and *be*



Have

| Affirmative | Negative          | Short forms      |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| I had       | I did not have    | I didn't have    |
| you had     | you did not have  | you didn't have  |
| he had      | he did not have   | you didn't have  |
| she had     | she did not have  | she didn't have  |
| it had      | it did not have   | it didn't have   |
| we had      | we did not have   | we didn't have   |
| you had     | you did not have  | you didn't have  |
| they had    | they did not have | they didn't have |

Look at the starter unit for the past tense of **be**.

We use **had** to talk about appearance and possessions in the past. The affirmative form of **had** doesn't change. The negative form always uses **did**.  
*I had very long hair when I was fifteen. We had a cat.*

1 Write sentences using the past simple of **be**.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Rob / handsome / X<br><u>Rob wasn't handsome.</u> | 2 Chloe and Eric / clever / ✓<br>_____ |
| 3 Eric and Mia / friendly / X<br>_____              | 4 Julia and Kate / pretty / ✓<br>_____ |
| 5 Chloe / pretty / ✓<br>_____                       | 6 Rob / clever / ✓<br>_____            |
| 7 Kate / clever / X<br>_____                        | 8 Eric / handsome / X<br>_____         |

2 Look at the pictures of the Hill family when they were younger. True or false? Write **T** or **F**.



Bob had red hair. T



Sue had fair hair. \_\_\_\_\_



Philip had dark hair. \_\_\_\_\_



Cathy had black hair. \_\_\_\_\_



Jill and Julie had long hair. \_\_\_\_\_

3 Write sentences about the Hill family. Use the past simple negative of **have**.

- Bob / brown hair  
Bob didn't have brown hair. He had red hair.
- Sue / short hair  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Philip / fair hair  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Cathy / short hair  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Jill and Julie / short hair  
\_\_\_\_\_

4 Look at the picture. Complete the sentences below with the past simple of **be** or **have**.



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Harry / a baby<br><u>Harry was a baby.</u> | 2 Mrs Jones / long hair<br><u>Mrs Jones had long hair.</u> |
| 3 Charlie and Mr Jones / happy<br>_____      | 4 Mr Jones / cheerful<br>_____                             |
| 5 Molly / young<br>_____                     | 6 Grandma Jones / pretty<br>_____                          |
| 7 Grandpa Jones / hungry<br>_____            | 8 the weather / sunny<br>_____                             |
| 9 Mrs Jones and Harry / brown hair<br>_____  | 10 Charlie / a bike<br>_____                               |

5 Read and mark the paragraphs 1, 2 and 3. Match the topics.

① In 1900 there were trains and boats. Some people had cars, but there were no planes. Many people had the dream to make a plane, but they didn't have the right ideas. In 1903 two brothers called Orville and Wilbur Wright had a clever idea. Their plane was lighter and easier to move. Their plane was the first plane to fly! The first planes were very small. They had one or two seats. They were slow and dangerous. Now we have very big planes, and they can go a long way. Flying is much safer now!

The Wright brothers   
 There weren't planes   
 The first planes



Match the sentences. Write them again with **and** or **but**.

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 In 1900 there were cars.     | a It was easier to move.       |
| 2 People had dreams.           | b They can go a long way.      |
| 3 The first plane was lighter. | c They were dangerous.         |
| 4 Old planes were small.       | d There weren't planes.        |
| 5 New planes are big.          | e They didn't have good ideas. |