5.5 GRAMMAR

Past Simple:
was/were, could

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

1 Complete the sentences with the correct positive or negative form of the verb *be* or *can*.

My brother *is* only three years old but he *can* swim quite well.

1 It [a]_____ three o'clock in the morning. I [b]_____ in bed but I [c]_____ sleep.

2 Hey, Jackie? [a]_____ you swim? [b]_____ you interested in a job? The swimming pool wants summer workers.

3 Louis [a]_____ very good at Spanish. He [b]_____ say 'Hello', he [c]_____ count to ten and he doesn't know what 'Gracias' means! He [d]_____ the worst student in the class!

4 My mum and dad [a]_____ angry with me because of my Maths test result. I work hard but I [b]_____ understand the Maths we are doing at the moment.

2 ★ Complete the text with the past form of the verbs in brackets.

Amazing children

William Sidis *was* (be) born in New York in 1898. He [1]_____ (can) speak more than ten languages and, when he [2]_____ (be) eleven he [3]_____ (be) already a student at Harvard University. He [4]_____ (be) a professor when he [5]_____ (be) twenty. He [6]_____ (be) amazing but, unfortunately, he [7]_____ (not/be) a happy child.

3 ★★ Complete the dialogue between Elaine (E) and her grandmother (G) with the correct past forms of the verb *be* or *can*.

E: Hi, Grandma. What are those photos?

G: They're my old photos from when I *was* a teenager like you.

E: Wow. Is that your motorbike?

G: No, it [1]_____ my brother's.

E: [2]_____ you drive?

G: Not then. Driving lessons [3]_____ expensive and my parents [4]_____ pay for them.

E: Oh, I like this one. Where [5]_____ you?

G: We [6]_____ in Wales on a school trip. The weather [7]_____ very good – there [8]_____ lots of rain – but we [9]_____ very happy in the mountains. Every day [10]_____ the same – breakfast at 8 a.m., a 20km walk and back to the hostel in the evening. We [11]_____ so tired, we [12]_____ move in the evenings. There [13]_____ any discos or parties – we [14]_____ in bed before 9 p.m!

E: [15]_____ you with Grandpa then?

G: No, I [16]_____ . He [17]_____ at the same school as me. Just a minute, ah, here's one of your grandfather and me. We [18]_____ twenty-one or twenty-two then …

4 ★★★ Use the words in brackets to make full questions and answers.

Conversation 1: Marcus and Sam

M: Hi, Sam. *Where were you yesterday* (where/you/yesterday)?

S: Hi. Sorry. [1]_____ (I/tired). [2]_____ (I/not/phone) you because [3]_____ (my phone/in) my bag at school.

Conversation 2: Jenny and Beverley

J: [1]_____ (David/really horrible) to me yesterday.

B: Really? Why?

J: [2]_____ (We/with) Ellen and Mark at the Sports Centre for a game of tennis. You know I can't play any ball sports. [3]_____ (I/not/hit) the ball! [4]_____ (David/not/happy) with me! He hates losing.

Conversation 3: Mr Smith and Kate

S: [1]_____ (Why/you late) to school this morning?

K: [2]_____ (My dad/not/find) his car keys.

S: [3]_____ (Where/they)?

K: [4]_____ (They/on the bathroom cupboard)!

SHOW WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT

5 Complete the sentences and questions with the correct Past Simple form of *be* and *can*. Use the words in brackets.

Why *were you sad* yesterday? **(you/sad)**

1 _____ at the age of seven? **(you/swim)**

2 Why _____ after the party? **(Carole/angry)**

3 Unfortunately, _____ me with my homework. **(Simon/help)**

4 _____ the guitar really well in primary school. What a talent! **(Nikki/play)**

5 'My _____ at the weekend.' 'Oh no, I'm sorry to hear that.' **(friends/ill)**

6 _____the pizza. Mega Supreme Pizza is really big. Too big! **(we/finish)**

/6



GRAMMAR: Train and Try Again page 132

LIVEWORKSHEETS