

My life is a simple thing that would interest nobody. It is a known fact that I was born, and that is all that is necessary.
Albert Einstein, German scientist

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 ²was a painter. This self-portrait is in the National Gallery in London.
 A ³Was she English?
 B No, she ⁴wasn't. She ⁵was French. She ⁶wasn't born in Paris.
 A And ⁷were her paintings popular in her lifetime?
 B Yes, they ⁸were very popular.

c Complete the conversations with present or past forms of *be*. Use contractions where possible.

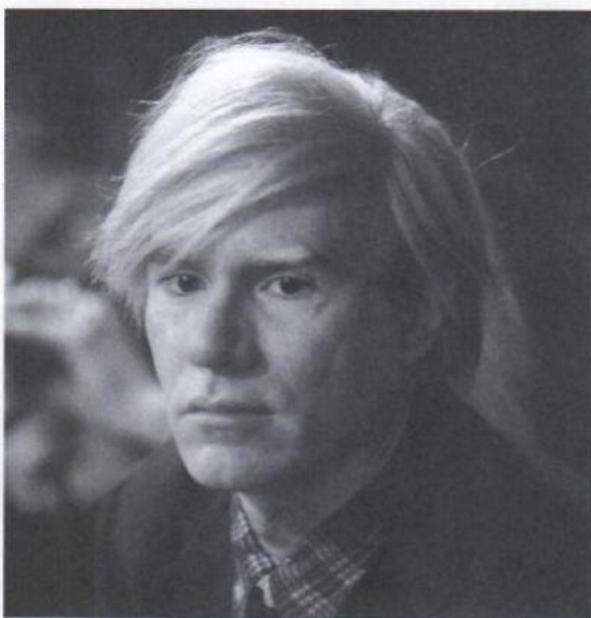
- 1 A What day is it today?
 B Monday. Yesterday was Sunday.
- 2 A Hi. Is your sister at home?
 B No, she isn't. She was here this morning, but now she isn't at work.
- 3 A I can't find my keys. Where are they?
 B I don't know. They were on your desk this morning.
- 4 A Where is your new boyfriend from?
 B He was born in England, but his parents were born in Singapore.
- 5 A Why was your boss angry yesterday?
 B Because I was 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 _____.
- 3 Were you at a party at the weekend?
 _____.
- 4 Where were you this time yesterday?
 _____.
- 5 Were you at home last night?
 _____.
- 6 Were you late for school / work today?
 _____.

2 PRONUNCIATION sentence stress

a 7.1 Listen and repeat. Copy the rhythm.



- A Who was Andy Warhol?
- B He was an artist.
- A Was he English?
- B No, he wasn't. He was American.
- A When was he born?
- B He was born in 1928.
- A Were his parents American?
- B No, they weren't.

b 7.2 Listen. Say the sentences in the past simple.

1)) I'm at work. (I was at work.

3 VOCABULARY word formation

a Make jobs from words in the list and write them in the chart.

act art compose dance direct invent music
novel paint piano politics science sing write

<i>-er</i>	<i>-or</i>	<i>-ist</i>	<i>-ian</i>
composer			

b Complete the sentences with *was* / *were* and a noun from a.

- 1 Rudolf Nureyev was a dancer.
- 2 Beethoven and Mozart were composers.
- 3 James Dean _____
- 4 Marie Curie _____
- 5 Janis Joplin _____
- 6 The Wright brothers _____
- 7 Agatha Christie _____
- 8 Degas and Toulouse-Lautrec _____

c Write questions and answers.



1 Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor / actors? ✓
Were Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor actors?
Yes, they were.

2 Alexander Graham Bell / artist? (inventor)
Was Alexander Graham Bell an artist?
No, he wasn't. He was an inventor.

3 Charlotte Bronte / novelist? ✓

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5 J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis / musicians? ✘ (writers)

ANSWER

7 Vivaldi and Bach / composers? ✓

8 Dante Alighieri / politician? (poet)