

6 Back in time

GRAMMAR

past simple: be

1 Complete the sentences with *is*, *are*, *was* or *were*.

- 1 In 1837 there musical instruments, but no TVs.
- 2 There usually about thirty children in modern British classes.
- 3 there any whiteboards at school in the 1830s?
- 4 There a lot of work to do. Let's start!
- 5 Why she away from school yesterday?

2 Rewrite the sentences in the past simple.

There isn't a supermarket in the village.

There wasn't a supermarket in the village.

- 1 There aren't any TVs at the school.

- 2 The lesson isn't very interesting.

- 3 Old computers aren't very quick.

- 4 The weather isn't nice.

- 5 My parents aren't happy with me.

3 Complete the blog with the correct form of *was* or *were*.

On Friday I ¹ at an exhibition at the Science Museum with my class. There ² lots of gadgets for listening to music, from the last 100 years or so. There ³ any CDs in the 1900s. There ⁴ machines called gramophones. They work like record players, but they have big speakers, like trumpets. The sound ⁵ very good, not like modern CDs, but I think some of the gramophones ⁶ really beautiful.

4 Alice and Beth are looking at an old photo of their city. Complete the conversation with *was*, *wasn't*, *were* or *weren't*.



A: Wow! The city ¹ very different in the 1940s.

B: Yes. What ² those things? They look like buses.

A: They ³ called trams, I think.

B: There ⁴ any cars in the city centre.

A: You're right. There ⁵

B: And all the people are wearing hats in this photo. Look!

A: Yes, hats ⁶ very popular.

5 Write short answers about you and your family.

- 1 Were your parents born in the 1990s?

- 2 Was your grandad in a pop group when he was young?

- 3 Was there just one teacher at your school yesterday?

- 4 Were you a beautiful baby?

- 5 Were there any good programmes on TV last night?

- 6 Was your last English homework difficult?

