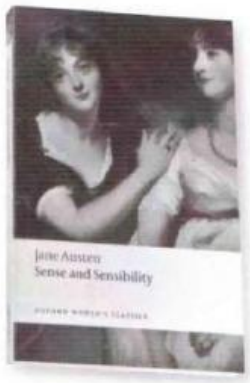
7A At the National Portrait Gallery

1 GRAMMAR past simple of *be*: *was* / *were*



a Complete the sentences with *was*, *were*, *wasn't*, or *weren't*.

A Who's that?
B It's Jane Austen.
A Why [1] *was* she famous?
B She [2] _____ a writer.
A [3] _____ she Scottish?
B No, she [4] _____.
She [5] _____ English. She [6] _____ born in a small village in the South of England.
A And [7] _____ she married?
B No, she [8] _____.

b Write questions and answers.

1 Alexander Graham Bell / sportsman? ✗
Was Alexander Graham Bell a sportsman?
No, he wasn't.

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

3 Charles Dickens / novelist? ✓
_____?
_____.

4 The Beatles / from the USA? ✗
_____?
_____.

5 Lord Byron / politician? ✗
_____?
_____.

6 Isaac Newton / composer? ✗
_____?
_____.

7 Bono / born / Ireland? ✓
_____?
_____.

8 Amy Winehouse / singer? ✓
_____?
_____.

9 J R R Tolkien and C S Lewis / painters? ✗
_____?
_____.

10 Michael Jackson / born / Britain? ✗
_____?
_____.

c Complete the dialogues with present or past forms of *be*.

1 A What day *is* it today?
B Monday. Yesterday *was* Sunday.

2 A Hi. _____ your sister at home?
B No, she _____. She _____ here this morning, but now she _____ at work.

3 A I can't find my keys. Where _____ they?
B I don't know. They _____ on your desk this morning.

4 A Where _____ your new boyfriend from?
B He _____ born in England, but his parents _____ born in Singapore.

5 A Why _____ your boss angry yesterday?
B Because I _____ very late for work.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 VOCABULARY word formation

a Make professions from these words. Use *a* or *an*.

1 invent *an inventor*
2 write _____
3 police _____
4 compose _____
5 music _____
6 paint _____
7 business _____
8 act _____
9 science _____
10 sail _____

b Underline the stressed syllables, e.g. *an inventor.*

c Practise saying the words in **a**.

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

1 Francis Drake *was a sailor*.
2 Beethoven and Mozart *were composers*.
3 James Dean _____.
4 Galileo _____.
5 Freddie Mercury _____.
6 The Wright brothers _____.
7 Agatha Christie _____.
8 Howard Hughes _____.
9 Degas and Toulouse-Lautrec _____.

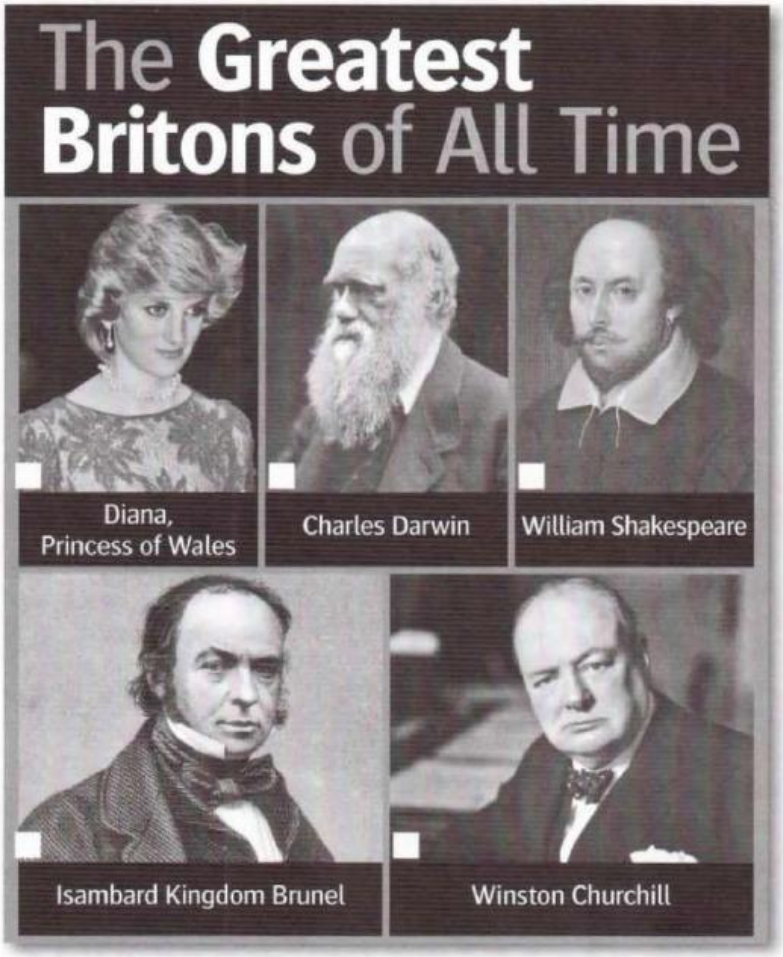
3 PRONUNCIATION sentence stress

iChecker Listen and repeat the conversation.

A Who was Benjamin Britten?
B He was a composer.
A Was he American?
B No, he wasn't. He was English.
A When was he born?
B He was born in 1913.
A Were his parents English?
B Yes, they were.

4 LISTENING

a iChecker Listen to a radio programme about the greatest Britons of all time. Number the people in the order they come on the list.



b iChecker Listen again. Write T (true) or F (false).

1 We don't know when Shakespeare was born. *T*
2 Charles Darwin was born on 20th February, 1809. _____
3 He was 63 when he died. _____
4 Diana was born on 1st July, 1961. _____
5 She wasn't married when she died. _____
6 Isambard Kingdom Brunel was a writer. _____
7 He was 53 when he died. _____
8 The greatest Briton of all time was a painter. _____

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Learn these words and phrases.

the (16th) century /ðə ˈsentʃəri/
divorced /dɪˈvɔːst/
between (1816 and 1820) /bɪˈtwiːn/
be against (something) /bi əˈgeɪnst/
be in love (with someone) /bi ɪn ˈlʌv/

LIVEWORKSHEETS