

GRAMMAR: Past of *be*, *there was*, *there were*, and simple past: irregular verbs

1 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 ____ you good at sports when you were young?
a Were b Was c Wasn't
- 2 We had a test yesterday. It ____ really difficult.
a was b weren't c were
- 3 Last year, I visited Rome. It's very beautiful, but it ____ cheap!
a was b were c wasn't
- 4 Why ____ you at the party last night?
a was b wasn't c weren't
- 5 His parents ____ rich, but they had a big house.
a was b were c weren't
- 6 It was a warm day, and there ____ lots of people in town.
a was b were c wasn't

2 Complete the sentences with the simple past form of the verbs in parentheses.

Last week, I ¹_____ (be) in New York. I ²_____ (go) with my family: my mom, aunt, and two brothers. We ³_____ (have) a really good time. Of course, we ⁴_____ (see) all the sights – the Statue of Liberty, Central Park, and Times Square – and I ⁵_____ (take) lots of photos. There are some great stores there, so I ⁶_____ (buy) lots of new clothes – jeans, sneakers, and tops. We all loved the food, too – we ⁷_____ (eat) some fantastic meals. We ⁸_____ (come) home on Friday – but I want to go back again very soon!

VOCABULARY: Inventions

3 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

digital camera toaster smartphone
microwave laptop dishwasher CD player

- 1 I couldn't live without my _____ in my pocket. I call my friends and play games on it, too!
- 2 We were late, but Mom left our dinner in the _____.
- 3 Our _____ is broken – the bread comes out black!
- 4 Suki's hobby is taking photos – she has a really expensive _____.
- 5 I don't enjoy washing the dishes after meals. I wish we had a _____.
- 6 Do your parents still listen to music on a _____?
- 7 I couldn't do my homework last night. My _____ broke, and I lost all my work!

4 Complete the conversation with the correct words.

Anna What kinds of things were there in your house when you were young, Grandma?

Grandma There wasn't a lot of technology in those days. For example, there was a radio, but we only had a black and white ¹_____ to watch in the evenings, and we didn't have a DVD ²_____.

Anna Really? And there was no ³_____ TV?

Grandma Oh no, only black and white! And we didn't have a fridge or ⁴_____ to keep our food cold, and there was no ⁵_____ to dry your clothes when you washed them!

Anna But were you happy?

Grandma Yes, I was! Life was interesting. We didn't have a ⁶_____ in our cars, so when you went somewhere new, you sometimes got lost. That was an adventure!

PRONUNCIATION: *was* and *were*

5 8.1 Underline the words you think will be stressed. Then say the sentences. Listen, check, and repeat.

- 1 My grandmother's life was very interesting.
- 2 We weren't bored in school yesterday.
- 3 Her parents were both teachers.
- 4 There weren't many people in the market.
- 5 There was a bar of chocolate in the fridge.
- 6 I wasn't tired when I went to bed.
- 7 I told the waiter that my French fries were cold.
- 8 It wasn't very sunny last week.