

## GRAMMAR Past Simple of BE

**a Look at a self-portrait by a famous painter. Answer the questions.**

1. Do you know who he is?
2. How old do you think he is in this painting?
3. Do you know any of his paintings?  
Do you like them?

**b Listen to an audio guide. Check your answers to questions 1 and 2 in a.**

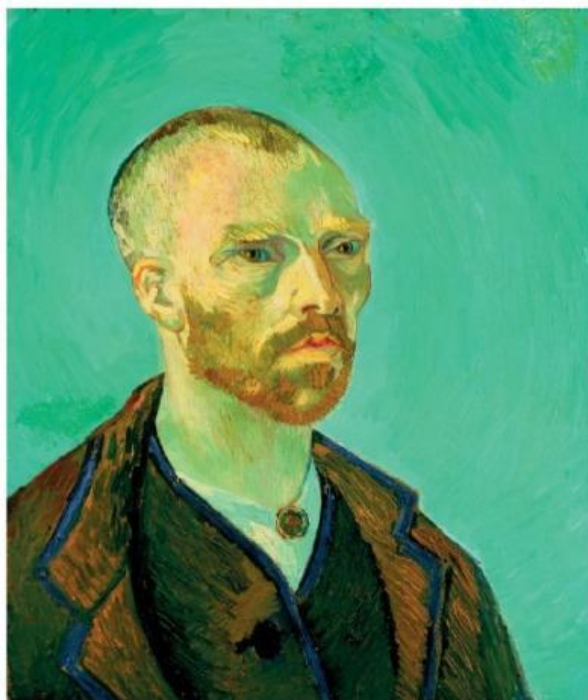
**c Listen again, choose a, b or c**

- 1 He was born in \_\_\_\_\_ in 1853.
- 2 His parents weren't \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Before he was a painter, he was a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 There are \_\_\_\_ photos of him when he was young.
5. This self-portrait was a present for the painter \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The relationship between the two painters wasn't \_\_\_\_\_.
7. He was only \_\_\_\_\_ when he died.
8. During his life, his paintings were \_\_\_\_\_.

**d Look at the highlighted verbs and complete the chart.**

[ was ] [ I, she, he, it ] [ weren't ] [ wasn't ] [ you, we, they ] [ were ]

| Present | is / am | isn't | are | aren't |
|---------|---------|-------|-----|--------|
| Past    |         |       |     |        |
| Persons |         |       |     |        |



## 7A past simple of *be*: *was* / *were*

Vincent van Gogh **was** an artist.



**Was** he Dutch or French?

She **wasn't** in class yesterday.

The Beatles **were** famous in the 1960s.

Where **were** you last night? You **weren't** at home.

- We use *was* / *were* to talk about the past.
- We often use *was* / *were* with past time expressions, e.g. *yesterday*, *last night*, *in 2014*, etc.
- We use *was* / *were* with *born*.  
*I **was born** in Scotland.*

| +                 |                   |                    | -                      |                          |                       |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| I / He / She / It |                   | <b>was</b> there.  | I / He / She / It      |                          | <b>wasn't</b> there.  |
| You / We / They   |                   | <b>were</b> there. | You / We / They        |                          | <b>weren't</b> there. |
| ?                 |                   |                    | ✓                      | ✗                        |                       |
| <b>Was</b>        | I / he / she / it | famous?            | Yes, I <b>was</b> .    | No, I <b>wasn't</b> .    |                       |
| <b>Were</b>       | you / we / they   |                    | Yes, you <b>were</b> . | No, you <b>weren't</b> . |                       |

**a Rewrite the sentences in the past simple.**

| <b>present simple</b>        | <b>Yesterday</b>              |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| My father's at work.         | <u>My father was</u> at work. |
| 1 She's at home today.       | _____ at home.                |
| 2 Where are you now?         | Where _____?                  |
| 3 I'm in Edinburgh.          | _____ in Edinburgh.           |
| 4 Is it hot today?           | _____ hot?                    |
| 5 It isn't open now.         | _____ open.                   |
| 6 They aren't in the office. | _____ in the office.          |
| 7 We're in Rome now.         | _____ in Rome.                |
| 8 They're tired.             | _____ tired.                  |
| 9 We aren't late.            | _____ late.                   |
| 10 I'm not at school.        | _____ at school.              |

**b Complete the conversation with *was*, *wasn't*, *were*, or *weren't*.**

A Were you and Charlie at the concert last night?

B Yes, we <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

A <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ it good?

B No, it <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. The singer <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ terrible.

A <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ the tickets expensive?

B Yes, they <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

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C Where <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ your mother born?

D She <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ born in Argentina in 1955.

C <sup>9</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ her parents Argentinian?

D No, they <sup>10</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. Her father <sup>11</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ German and her mother <sup>12</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ from Italy.