

The past

6.1 Don't give up!

Grammar *was* and *were*

1 Make positive (+) or negative (-) sentences, or questions (?) using the past form of *be*.

- 1 (+) the co-founders of Microsoft / Bill Gates and Paul Allen The co-founders of Microsoft were Bill Gates and Paul Allen.
- 2 (?) the restaurant / expensive _____
- 3 (-) Harry's meal / very good _____
- 4 (+) I / very tired last night _____
- 5 (?) where / you / yesterday _____
- 6 (-) we / late for work this morning _____
- 7 (?) why / Vincent van Gogh / famous _____
- 8 (-) I / born in England _____

2 Choose the correct options to complete the article.

IKEA is born

Ingvar Kamprad ¹*was* / *were* the founder of the furniture company IKEA. He ²*was* / *were* born in 1926 in Sweden. His parents ³*wasn't* / *weren't* rich – they ⁴*was* / *were* farmers and the family home ⁵*was* / *were* near a small village in the south of Sweden. Ingvar ⁶*wasn't* / *weren't* interested in farming. He started IKEA in his uncle's kitchen in 1943. His first products ⁷*was* / *were* pencils and other small items. There ⁸*wasn't* / *weren't* any IKEA stores before 1958 – it ⁹*was* / *were* only possible to buy things from IKEA by mail. The first IKEA store ¹⁰*was* / *were* in Sweden, but now there are stores around the world.



3 Read the article in exercise 2 again. Complete the questions below with *was* or *were*, then write short answers.

- 1 Was Ingvar Kamprad born in Sweden?
Yes, he was.
- 2 _____ his parents rich?
- 3 _____ they farmers?
- 4 _____ Ingvar interested in farming?
- 5 _____ IKEA furniture on sale in 1950?

PRONUNCIATION the past of *to be*

4a Are the words in **bold** stressed (S) or unstressed (U)?

- 1 I **was** tired last night. U
- 2 **Was** I tired last night?
- 3 Yes, I **was**.
- 4 No, I **wasn't**.
- 5 They **were** at home last night.
- 6 **Were** they at home last night?
- 7 Yes, they **were**.
- 8 No, they **weren't**.

- b 6.1** Listen and check.

- C 6.1** Listen again. Pause the listening and repeat after each sentence.

- 5a 6.2**))) Listen to the pronunciation of *was/were*. Write stressed (S) or unstressed (U).

- 1 A Was Elvis Presley famous? Yes
B Yes, he was. Yes
- 2 A Why was the doctor at your house? My husband was sick.
B My husband was sick. Yes
- 3 A Where were you yesterday? We were at work.
B We were at work. Yes
- 4 A Were the teachers at your first school nice? Yes, they were.
B Yes, they were. Yes
- 5 A When were you born? I was born in 1992.
B I was born in 1992. Yes

- b 6.2** Listen again. Pause the listening and repeat after each sentence.

Vocabulary time expressions

- 6** Put the words in the right order to make sentences.

- 1 her / Jackie / in / hour / ago / was / office / an / half .
Jackie was in her office half an hour ago.
- 2 in / London Olympics / The / 2012 / were / last .

- 3 There / night / was / match / an / last / football / important .

- 4 year / Spain / We / in / were / last .

- 5 morning / was / tired / I / this / very .

- 6 Albert Einstein / nineteenth / in / century / born / the / was .

- 7 a / staff meeting / few / There / days / was / ago / a .

- 8 in hospital / She / two / ago / was / months .

- 7 Look at the events in exercise 6. Put them in order, with the most recent event first.

NOW

- 1 Jackie was in her office half an hour ago.
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____

- 8** Complete the text. Use the word/phrase/date in (brackets) and add *in*, *last* or *ago*.

FAMILY HISTORY

My father-in-law, Glen, was a police officer; but he retired ¹ in 2006 (2006). Now, he has more time and he enjoys researching his family history. Glen goes to family-history meetings every month and he visits museums all over the country to find out more information about his own family – ² _____ (month) he was in York and this week he's in Cambridge.

3 _____ (two years), he was in Wales. He was there because 4 _____ (the 19th century) his grandparents were farmers in Wales. It was 5 _____ (a long time), but the farm is there today! 6 _____ (year) he was in Canada – Glen's aunt moved to Canada 7 _____ (1935) and Glen has some cousins in Toronto. He was really happy to meet them when he was there 8 _____ (the summer). My husband and I were at Glen's house 9 _____ (night) and he showed us his photos of Wales and Canada – they were very interesting.

I can ...

I can ...	Very well	Quite well	More practice
use <i>was/were</i> to talk about the past.	☐	☐	☐
use other time expressions.	☐	☐	☐