

## There was, there were



## Affirmative

there was + singular noun  
there were + plural noun

## Negative

there was not  
there were not

## Short forms

there wasn't  
there weren't

**There was** and **there were** are the past simple forms of **there is** and **there are**. **There were** is followed by a number or **some**. **There wasn't** + uncountable noun is followed by **any**. **There wasn't** + countable noun is followed by **a**, **an** or a number. After **there weren't**, we use **any** or a number.

*There was a big park near here. There were some old cars in the museum.*  
*There wasn't a bus stop outside. There weren't any computers.*

## Was there ...? Were there ...?

After **Was there ...?** we use **a** or **an** before countable nouns and **any** before uncountable nouns. After **Were there ...?** we use **any** or a number.

*Were there any trams?*

## Short answers

Yes, there was. No, there wasn't.  
Yes, there were. No, there weren't.



*Was there a train station near here? Yes, there was. / No, there wasn't.*  
We don't repeat the noun in short answers.

**1 Look at the table about a town in England. True or false? Write T or F.**

In 1958

| train stations | trams | cinemas | parks | bus stations |
|----------------|-------|---------|-------|--------------|
| 2              | ✓     | ✗       | 3     | 1            |

In 2008

| train stations | trams | cinemas | parks | bus stations |
|----------------|-------|---------|-------|--------------|
| 1              | ✗     | 1       | 2     | 1            |

- 1 In 1958, there were three parks. T
- 2 In 2008, there were two train stations. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 In 2008, there was one bus station. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 In 1958, there were some trams. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 In 1958, there was one park. \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Look at the table in exercise 1. Write sentences about the town in the past using **there was a**, **there were**, **there wasn't a** and **there weren't any**.**

- 1 in 1958 / parks

In 1958, there were three parks.

- 2 in 2008 / bus station

In 2008, there was one bus station.

- 3 in 2008 / parks

\_\_\_\_\_

- 4 in 1958 / cinemas

\_\_\_\_\_

- 5 in 2008 / cinema

\_\_\_\_\_

- 6 in 1958 / train stations

\_\_\_\_\_

- 7 in 2008 / trams

\_\_\_\_\_

- 8 in 1958 / trams

\_\_\_\_\_

- 9 in 1958 / bus stations

\_\_\_\_\_

- 4 Last week was 'Help your neighbour' week. Look at Charlie's busy diary. Today is Friday. Are the sentences true or false? Write **T** or **F**.

|           | Monday                    | Tuesday                        | Wednesday                        | Thursday                         | Friday<br>TODAY |
|-----------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Morning   | repair<br>Alex's bike     | look after<br>baby Sam         |                                  | help Mr Hill<br>in the garden    |                 |
| Afternoon |                           |                                | carry<br>Mrs Smith's<br>shopping |                                  |                 |
| Evening   | wash<br>Mr Brown's<br>car | clean<br>Mrs Clarke's<br>house | play<br>football                 | paint<br>Mrs Robertson's<br>door |                 |

- Last Monday afternoon, Charlie washed Mr Brown's car. F
- Yesterday morning, Charlie cleaned Mrs Clarke's bathroom. \_\_\_\_\_
- Last Tuesday morning, Charlie looked after baby Sam. \_\_\_\_\_
- On Thursday evening, Charlie painted Mrs Robertson's door. \_\_\_\_\_
- Yesterday evening, Charlie played football. \_\_\_\_\_
- Yesterday morning, Charlie helped Mr Hill in the garden. \_\_\_\_\_
- On Monday morning, Charlie repaired Alex's bike. \_\_\_\_\_
- Last Wednesday, Charlie cleaned Mrs Clark's house. \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 Look at Charlie's diary in exercise 4. Complete the sentences using past time expressions.

- Last Monday, Charlie repaired Alex's bike.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Monday evening, Charlie washed Mr Brown's car.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday evening, Charlie cleaned Mrs Clarke's house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ morning, Charlie helped Mr Hill in the garden.
- Last \_\_\_\_\_ morning, Charlie looked after baby Sam.
- \_\_\_\_\_ evening, Charlie painted Mrs Robertson's door.
- Last \_\_\_\_\_, Charlie played football.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday afternoon, Charlie carried Mrs Smith's shopping.

### 3 Write questions and short answers using the table on page 55.

1 2008 / a cinema / ?

In 2008, was there a cinema?

Yes, there was.

2 1958 / three train stations / ?

In 1958, were there three train stations?

No, there weren't.

3 1958 / two cinemas / ?

\_\_\_\_\_

4 1958 / trams / ?

\_\_\_\_\_

5 2008 / a bus station / ?

\_\_\_\_\_

6 2008 / three parks / ?

\_\_\_\_\_

7 2008 / two parks / ?

\_\_\_\_\_

8 1958 / two bus stations / ?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Past time expressions

We use **last**, **yesterday** and **on** to talk about specific time in the past.

Use **last** with nouns.

**last week, last month, last year, last March, last Friday, last night**

Use **yesterday** on its own or with other nouns.

**yesterday morning, yesterday afternoon, yesterday evening**

Use **on** with a day of the week.

**On Friday, I stayed with Sophie.**