

Past simple: **be** and **can**I can talk about the past using **be** and **can**.

## 1 Circle the correct words to complete the sentences.

- Jason **was** / **wasn't** at school. He was on holiday.
- Pete and Kate **was** / **were** at the theatre last night.
- Wendy and Jo **were** / **weren't** with me. **Was** / **Were** they with you?
- 'Was** / **Were** you at home last night?' 'Yes, I **was** / **were**.'
- Harry **was** / **were** in Spain last summer.
- The weather **was** / **were** really nice last weekend – warm and sunny.

2 Look at the table. Write sentences about where the people were. Use the past simple form of **be**, affirmative or negative.

Day	Freddy	Nola
Mon	London	Manchester
Tues	Cardiff	Cardiff
Wed	Bristol	London
Thur	Newcastle	Bristol
Fri	Liverpool	Liverpool
Sat and Sun	Plymouth	Nottingham

- Freddy / Manchester / Monday  
Freddy *wasn't* in Manchester on Monday.
- Nola / London / Wednesday
- Freddy and Nola / Newcastle / Tuesday
- Freddy / Plymouth / Saturday and Sunday
- Nola / London / Monday
- Freddy and Nola / Liverpool / Friday

## 3 Where were you? Write questions and true answers.

- at two o'clock in the morning?  
Where were you at two o'clock in the morning?  
I was in bed.
- at ten o'clock yesterday morning?
- at three o'clock yesterday afternoon?
- at seven o'clock on Friday evening?
- at eleven o'clock on Saturday night?

4 What could Sarah and Mike do at these ages? Look at the table and write questions and answers. Use **be** and **can**.

	Sarah	Mike
swim	age three	age four
read	age five	age three
ride a bike	age six	age six

- Mike / swim / three? Could Mike swim when he was three?  
No, he couldn't.
- Sarah / swim / four? \_\_\_\_\_
- Mike / read / three? \_\_\_\_\_
- Sarah / read / four? \_\_\_\_\_
- Mike and Sarah / ride a bike / six? \_\_\_\_\_

5 Complete the dialogue. Use the correct past simple form of **be** and **can** (affirmative, negative and interrogative).

- Zoe Hi, Erin. Are you having a good time in Africa?  
Erin Yes, I am. I phoned you on Saturday, but you  
1 \_\_\_\_\_ at home. Then I tried to phone you  
yesterday. But I 2 \_\_\_\_\_ get a signal.  
Zoe Where are you now?  
Erin In Zanzibar. We arrived two days ago. Yesterday we  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ at the beach. I tried surfing, but it was  
really difficult – I 4 \_\_\_\_\_ stand up!  
Zoe 5 \_\_\_\_\_ there any sharks?  
Erin No! Well, I 6 \_\_\_\_\_ see any!  
Zoe 7 \_\_\_\_\_ you in Tanzania last week?  
Erin Yes, we 8 \_\_\_\_\_. We climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.  
The view from the top 9 \_\_\_\_\_ fantastic!  
I 10 \_\_\_\_\_ see for miles!

Zoe Wow! That sounds amazing!