

11 Past times

There was, there were
Past time expressions

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.*

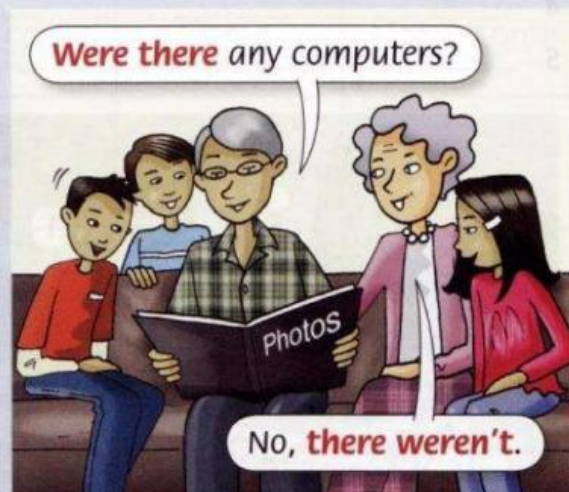
Was there ...? Were there ...?

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

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.

- 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 TODAY
Morning	repair Alex's bike	look after baby Sam		help Mr Hill in the garden	
Afternoon			carry Mrs Smith's shopping		
Evening	wash Mr Brown's car	clean Mrs Clarke's house	play football	paint Mrs Robertson's door	

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

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

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