There was, there were

Affirmative	Negative	Short forms
there was + singular noun	**there was not**	**there wasn't**
there were + plural noun	**there were not**	**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
_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The past simple: **have** and **be**

Have

Affirmative	Negative	Short forms
I **had**	I **did not have**	I **didn't have**
you **had**	you **did not have**	you **didn't have**
he **had**	he **did not have**	you **didn't have**
she **had**	she **did not have**	she **didn't have**
it **had**	it **did not have**	it **didn't have**
we **had**	we **did not have**	we **didn't have**
you **had**	you **did not have**	you **didn't have**
they **had**	they **did not have**	they **didn't have**

Look at the starter unit for the past tense of **be**.

We use **had** to talk about appearance and possessions in the past. The affirmative form of **had** doesn't change. The negative form always uses **did**.
*I **had** very long hair when I was fifteen.* *We **had** a cat.*

1 Write sentences using the past simple of be.

1 Rob / handsome / ✗
Rob wasn't handsome.

2 Chloe and Eric / clever / ✓

3 Eric and Mia / friendly / ✗

4 Julia and Kate / pretty / ✓

5 Chloe / pretty / ✓

6 Rob / clever / ✓

7 Kate / clever / ✗

8 Eric / handsome / ✗

2 Look at the pictures of the Hill family when they were younger. True or false? Write T or F.

1
Bob had red hair. T

2
Sue had fair hair. _____

3
Philip had dark hair. _____

4
Cathy had black hair. _____

5
Jill and Julie had long hair. _____

3 Write sentences about the Hill family. Use the past simple negative of have.

1 Bob / brown hair
Bob didn't have brown hair. He had red hair.

2 Sue / short hair

3 Philip / fair hair

4 Cathy / short hair

5 Jill and Julie / short hair

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Look at the picture. Complete the sentences below with the past simple of be or have.

1 Harry / a baby
Harry was a baby.

2 Mrs Jones / long hair
Mrs Jones had long hair.

3 Charlie and Mr Jones / happy

4 Mr Jones / cheerful

5 Molly / young

6 Grandma Jones / pretty

7 Grandpa Jones / hungry

8 the weather / sunny

9 Mrs Jones and Harry / brown hair

10 Charlie / a bike

5 Read and mark the paragraphs 1, 2 and 3. Match the topics.

(1) In 1900 there were trains and boats. Some people had cars, but there were no planes. Many people had the dream to make a plane, but they didn't have the right ideas. In 1903 two brothers called Orville and Wilbur Wright had a clever idea. Their plane was lighter and easier to move. Their plane was the first plane to fly! The first planes were very small. They had one or two seats. They were slow and dangerous. Now we have very big planes, and they can go a long way. Flying is much safer now!

The Wright brothers	
There weren't planes	1
The first planes	

Match the sentences. Write them again with *and* or *but*.

1 In 1900 there were cars.
2 People had dreams.
3 The first plane was lighter.
4 Old planes were small.
5 New planes are big.

a It was easier to move.
b They can go a long way.
c They were dangerous.
d There weren't planes.
e They didn't have good ideas.

LIVEWORKSHEETS