(there) was/were

1 ☆ **Choose the correct option.**

Where **1 was/were** you on Saturday? It **2 was/were** Will's birthday and you **3 wasn't/weren't** at his party.

No, I **4 wasn't/weren't**. I **5 was/were** at home. My mum **6 wasn't/weren't** there and my little sister **7 was/were** with me. **8 Was/Were** it a good party?

Yes, it **9 was/were**. Your cousins Rachel and Maya **10 wasn't/weren't** there. Where **11 was/were** they?

I think they **12 was/were** at a concert. Their dad **13 was/were** in the band.

2 ☆☆ **Complete the sentences with *there was/were* or *there wasn't/weren't*.**

How much do you know about these
everyday objects?

1 *There were* **(+)** other board games before chess. Senet was probably the first one.

2 _____ **(–)** any small electronic calculators before the 1970s.

3 People used bits of wood to clean their teeth in ancient times. _____ **(–)** any modern toothbrushes until 1938.

4 Before 1869, _____ **(–)** any modern chewing gum. People chewed parts of trees instead.

5 Around 7,000 years ago, _____ **(+)** socks, but people used animal fur and not wool.

3 ☆☆☆ **Complete the text with the correct past simple form of *be*.**

Who 1 *were* **these famous historical inventors? Why 2** _____ **they famous?**

There **3** _____ so many cool people like John Logie Baird and Alexander Graham Bell. They **4** _____ both from Scotland. Baird **5** _____ one of the inventors of the television. People say that Bell **6** _____ (not) the only inventor of the telephone, but he made the first phone call. **7** _____ there any women? Well, there **8** _____ Hedy Lamarr. She **9** _____ (not) a scientist. She **10** _____ a famous actress and she **11** _____ also very good at maths. Hedy Lamarr's work **12** _____ important for the invention of WiFi, GPS and Bluetooth.

could/couldn't

4 ☆☆ **Complete the sentences with *could* or *couldn't* and the verbs in brackets.**

1 Actor Angelina Jolie *could fly* **(fly)** a plane when she was 29.

2 Helen Keller was an American writer and teacher. She _____ **(not see)** and she _____ **(not hear)**, but she got a university degree.

3 Isaac Asimov was a writer of science fiction books. He _____ **(write)** several books at the same time.

4 Artists Vincent van Gogh and Paul Cézanne _____ **(not paint)** until they were in their 20s.

5 One of the world's best tennis players, Simona Halep, _____ **(play)** tennis well when she was only four years old.

6 Albert Einstein _____ **(not talk)** when he was three and he _____ **(not read)** when he was eight.

Past time expressions

5 ☆☆ **Rewrite the underlined past time expressions with the words in the box.**

in July	in the 21st century	last night
~~seven days ago~~	the day before yesterday	
when I was eight		

1 It was really cold last week.
seven days ago

2 My keys were on the kitchen table two days ago.
_____

3 I'm now 14. I could speak English six years ago.
_____

4 There wasn't anything on TV yesterday at 9pm.
_____

5 I was born in 2007.
_____

6 My dad couldn't use social media last summer.
_____

6 ☆☆☆ **Rewrite four of the sentences in exercise 5 so they are true for you.**

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS