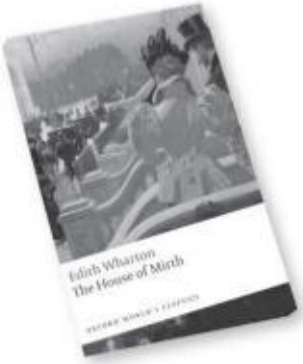
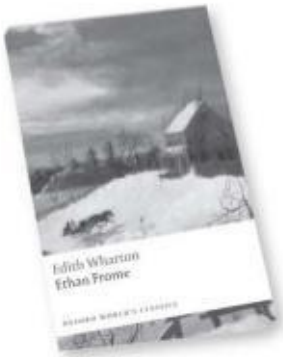
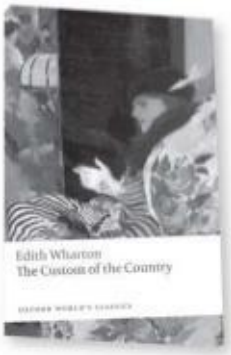
My life is a simple thing that would interest nobody.
It is a known fact that I was born, and that is all that is necessary.
Albert Einstein, German scientist

7A At the National Portrait Gallery

1 GRAMMAR simple past of *be*: *was* / *were*







a Complete the sentences with *was*, *were*, *wasn't*, or *weren't*.

A Who's that?
B It's Edith Wharton.
A Why [1] *was* she famous?
B She [2] _____ a writer.
A [3] _____ she Canadian?
B No, she [4] _____.
She [5] _____ American. She [6] _____ born in New York City in 1862.
A And [7] _____ she married?
B Yes, she [8] _____.

b Write questions and answers.

1 Alexander Graham Bell / sportsman? ✗
Was Alexander Graham Bell a sportsman ?
No, he wasn't .

2 Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor / actors? ✓
Were Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor actors ?
Yes, they were .

3 Jorge Luis Borges / writer? ✓
_____?
_____.

4 The Beatles / from the US? ✗
_____?
_____.

5 Robert Frost / politician? ✗
_____?
_____.

6 I.M. Pei / composer? ✗
_____?
_____.

7 Sofia Vergara / born / Columbia? ✓
_____?
_____.

8 Frank Sinatra / singer? ✓
_____?
_____.

9 J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis / painters? ✗
_____?
_____.

10 Michael Jackson / born / Britain? ✗
_____?
_____.

c Complete the dialogues with present or past forms of *be*.

1 A What day *is* it today?
B Monday. Yesterday *was* Sunday.

2 A Hi. _____ your sister at home?
B No, she _____. She _____ here this morning, but now she _____ at work.

3 A I can't find my keys. Where _____ they?
B I don't know. They _____ on your desk this morning.

4 A Where _____ your new friend from?
B He _____ born in the US, but his parents _____ born in Singapore.

5 A Why _____ your boss angry yesterday?
B Because I _____ very late for work.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 VOCABULARY word formation

a Make professions from these words. Use *a* or *an*.

1 invent *an inventor*
2 write _____
3 dance _____
4 compose _____
5 music _____
6 paint _____
7 business _____
8 act _____
9 science _____
10 sail _____

b Underline the stressed syllables, e.g. *an inventor*.

c Practice saying the words in **a**.

d Complete the sentences with *was / were* and a noun from **a**.

1 Francis Drake *was a sailor*.
2 Beethoven and Mozart *were composers*.
3 James Dean _____.
4 Galileo _____.
5 Freddie Mercury _____.
6 The Wright brothers _____.
7 F. Scott Fitzgerald _____.
8 Howard Hughes _____.
9 Degas and Toulouse-Lautrec _____.

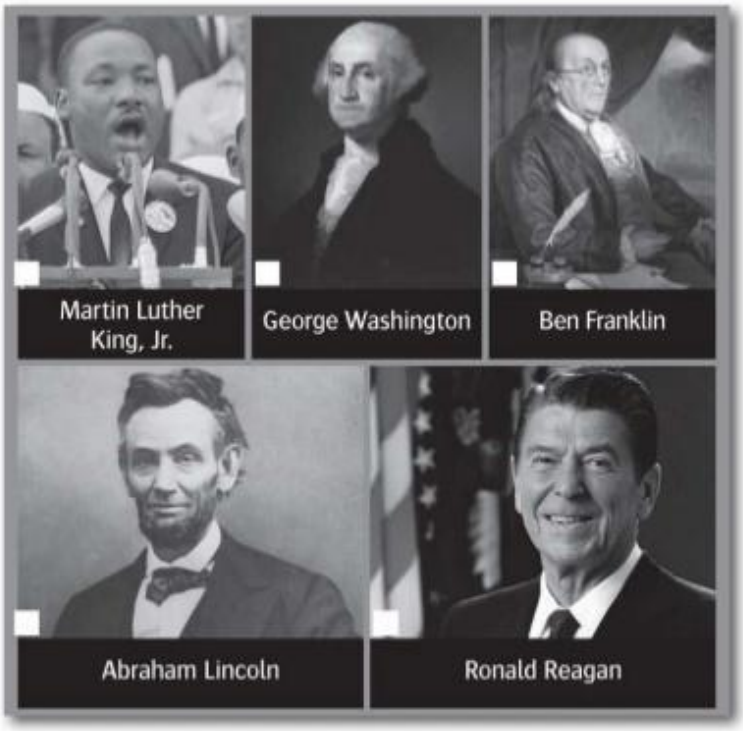
3 PRONUNCIATION sentence stress

iChecker Listen and repeat the conversation.

A Who was Aaron Copland?
B He was a composer.
A Was he British?
B No, he wasn't. He was American.
A When was he born?
B He was born in 1900.
A Were his parents composers?
B No, they weren't.

4 LISTENING

a iChecker Listen to a radio program about the greatest Americans of all time. Number the people in the order they come on the list.



b iChecker Listen again. Write T (true) or F (false).

1 Ben Franklin was a young newspaper owner. *T*
2 George Washington was born on February 12, 1732. ___
3 He was 76 when he died. ___
4 Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15th, 1929. ___
5 He was young when he died. ___
6 Abraham Lincoln was a painter. ___
7 He was 56 when he died. ___
8 The greatest American of all time was a singer. ___

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Learn these words and phrases.

the (16th) century /ðə 'sɛntʃəri/
killed /kɪld/
between (1816 and 1820) /bɪ'twin/
be against (something) /bi ə'gɛnst/
be in love (with someone) /bi ɪn 'lʌv/

LIVEWORKSHEETS