



ENGLISH

Chapter 5 Session A

2nd
SECONDARY

HOUSE AND HOME
Simple Past



 **SACO OLIVEROS**



SPEAKING

At the Library



23

Alex and Josh are doing a school research project about Aboriginal houses in the past. Listen and complete the dialogue.



They say here that Australian
Aborigines were **a** _____
a long time ago.

Yeah, they **b** _____ kind of campers.
Some of their **c** _____ were usually
leaning branches against each other
like a dome. They were called gunyas.

The info here is that
this **d** _____ common
in the arid interior.

And in wet seasons?
Were shelters different?



Yes, they were. In wet seasons,
e _____ in sandstone were
the most common Aboriginal
f _____.

Look at this: g _____ was
always present around gunyas
as it h _____ used to drive
away snakes and mosquitoes
and other insects as well as for
cooking and heating.

To sum up, the climate, the natural
environment and the family size
i _____ all factors to consider
when building a house.

They j _____
really city people ...



FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

Talking about a School Research

Speaker 1

They say here that ...

They were called ...

This was common in ...

Were houses different / big / small / made of ...?

Speaker 2

Look at this. Fire was always ...

It was / wasn't used to ...

They were / weren't really ...

Speaking Task

Write a dialogue between you and a friend about a school research project.

Step 1

Think about one of these subjects:

Cities in your country.

Home types in your city / country.

Farm houses in your city / country.

Step 2

Prepare sentences / questions about the subject:

Farm houses were made of ...

They were ...

The toilet was ...

Was (the kitchen) ...?

Were the rooms of the house ...?

A wood burning stove was ...

Step 3

Work in pairs. Write your dialogue.

Step 4

Take turns practicing your dialogue.



CULTURE

Scotland's Blackhouses

Thatched buildings are an iconic part of Scotland's heritage and historic environment, especially in rural areas such as the Highlands.


Hundreds of years ago, thatched houses were called blackhouses in Scotland. They were built with stones packed with earth. They were not high: the corners of the construction were rounded and the thatch was secured by a rope netting and weighed down with stones because of the windy weather in the area. Usually, there was just one door.

The thatched roof, the first roofing material in Scotland, was made with heather (a flowering plant) or broom (a tall and robust shrub). Along with a central hearth (fireplace), it helped keep the house warmed. There was no chimney for the smoke to escape through so it made its way through the roof and contributed to making the walls turn black, and therefore the adoption of the name blackhouse.

The blackhouse was used to accommodate people and animals. People lived at one end and animals at the other end, with a partition between them. Part of the blackhouse was also used to store grains and other products.

Nowadays, there are several restored blackhouses in some parts of Scotland and others which were turned into museums.



1  **24** Read and listen to a recording about Scottish blackhouses. Then write T for *true* or F for *false*.

- a** ☐ Hundreds of years ago there were blackhouses in the southeast of England.
- b** ☐ The roofs of blackhouses were built with stones, just like the walls.
- c** ☐ The thatched roof of blackhouses was made with heather or broom.
- d** ☐ All blackhouses had a central hearth which helped warm the house and whose smoke turned the walls black.
- e** ☐ People and animals shared the same space inside a blackhouse. They were only separated by a partition.



2 What were country houses like in your country 200 years ago?

To answer the question, take into account:

- The material used to build them
- The size of country houses
- The number of people who lived in the house
- The heating system

3 Share your findings with the class and compare them to your classmates' answers. Write down any new information.

5 Complete the questions with *was* or *were*. Then match the questions with the answers.

- a Was that your old house, Dad?
- b _____ you born there?
- c Where _____ your bedroom?
- d _____ it small?
- e What color _____ the curtains?
- f _____ you and your family happy there?

- 1 Next to the bathroom.
- 2 Yes, it was.
- 3 No, it wasn't. It was big.
- 4 No, I wasn't.
- 5 Yes, we were.
- 6 Blue and white.



6 Write questions with the simple past of *be*. Then write short answers.

the clothes / in the wardrobe? ☒

Were the clothes in the wardrobe?

No, they weren't.

a the lamp / on the desk? ☐

b the books / on the bookcase? ☐

c the bedroom / tidy? ☐

d the cats / on the bed? ☐

e Kieran / in bed? ☐

7 Write questions with the simple past of *be*. Then write short answers for you.

a you / at school / yesterday?

b your birthday / two days ago?

c Where / you / at ten o'clock last night?
