

# ENGLISH

## Chapter 5 Session A

**2nd**  
SECONDARY

**THEN AND NOW**

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# HELICOMOTIVATION

**there was/were**

**There was** no popcorn. (+ singular noun)

**There were** two calendars. (+ plural noun)

**(there) was/were****1** Read the examples and complete the rules.

The cocoa bean **was** important to the Aztecs.

Schools **weren't** only for rich children.

**Was** the water good for drinking? No, it **wasn't**.

The past of *be* is I/he/she/it **1 was** and  
you/we/they **2 were**.

To make the negative, add **3 not** to the verb.

To make a question, change the order of the  
**4 subject** and the verb.

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## 2 Complete the sentences with the simple past form of *be*.

Q: 1 Were you interested in history when you  
2 were younger?

A: No, I 3 wasn't. I thought it 4 was boring!

Q: 5 Was there a sports center in your town  
20 years ago?

A: Yes, there 6 was, but there 7 weren't  
any skate parks.

## 3 Read the examples and circle the correct option.

Both boys and girls **could** go to school.

They **couldn't** grow vegetables on water.

**Could** they write on paper? Yes, they **could**.

- 1 We use *could* and *couldn't* to talk about **present/past** ability and possibility.
- 2 We **always/never** use *did* and *didn't* in negative sentences and questions.
- 3 After *could* and *couldn't*, we use the infinitive **base form**.

## 4 Complete the sentences with *could* or *couldn't* and the ideas in the box.

become rich and famous   buy meat  
do exercise   vote   watch chariot races

- 1 In Ancient Rome, there were gyms, so people ... *could do exercise.*
- 2 The politicians were all men, and women ... *couldn't vote.*
- 3 There was a big stadium, where people ... *could watch chariot races.*
- 4 Fighting was important and gladiators ... *could become rich and famous.*
- 5 Most people were poor, so they ... *couldn't buy meat.*

## Past time expressions

**5** Order the past time expressions from most recent to oldest.

last night

∴

yesterday

∴

a week ago

∴

in June

∴

three years ago

∴

in 2015


∴

when I was five

∴

in the 19th century

∴

7  11 Complete the text with the correct past form of *be*, *could* or *couldn't*. Listen and check.



## SCHOOL LIFE IN ANCIENT EGYPT



In some ways, schools in Ancient Egypt  
1 were very similar to schools today. There  
2 were tables and chairs in the classrooms,  
and there 3 was a type of paper called  
'papyrus', so students 4 could write. They  
wrote using hieroglyphic symbols. There  
5 were about 700 symbols in the  
Egyptian alphabet!

But most teenagers didn't go to school because  
education 6 wasn't free. Only the sons  
of rich families 7 could study. Girls  
usually helped at home, and most of them  
8 couldn't read or write.





8 Answer the question to solve the Brain teaser.

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**BRAIN TEASER**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y	Z				

What is the word in Egyptian hieroglyphics?

YESTERDAY



## Unit 2

*(there) was/were, could and past time expressions*

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**1** **Reinforcement** Rewrite the sentences with *(there) was/wasn't* or *could*.



- 1 There was a Roman city near here. (-)  
*There wasn't a Roman city near here.*
- 2 The Mayan museum was in the city center. (-)  
*The Mayan museum wasn't in the city center.*
- 3 The Greeks were good at engineering. (?)  
*Were the Greeks good at engineering?*
- 4 The Egyptians weren't the inventors of clocks. (+)  
*The Egyptians were the inventors of clocks.*
- 5 Carthage wasn't in Egypt. (?) **where**  
*Where was Carthage?*
- 6 We could see the exhibit about the Romans. (-)  
*We couldn't see the exhibit about the Romans.*
- 7 The Aztecs couldn't speak Spanish. (?)  
*Could the Aztecs speak Spanish?*

## 2 **Reinforcement** Complete the sentences with the missing words.

- 1 They were here ten minutes ago .
- 2 She was born in 2009.
- 3 We couldn't go to the party last night.
- 4 I wasn't in class the day before yesterday.
- 5 I could swim when I was four years old.

- 3 Challenge** Look at Casper's notes and complete the sentences about the trip.

- ☐ choose what to visit ✓
- ☐ worksheet to complete ✓
- ☐ go around with friends ✓
- ☐ leave building ✗
- ☐ exhibit about Aztecs ✗
- ☐ exhibit about Romans ground floor ✓

- 1 We could choose what to see.
- 2 There was a worksheet to complete during the visit.
- 3 We could go around with our friends.
- 4 We couldn't leave the building.
- 5 There weren't any exhibits about the Aztecs.
- 6 The exhibit about the Romans was on the ground floor.

**4** **Challenge** Today is Monday, November 14, 2022. Use past time expressions to describe the dates.

- 1 Sunday, November 13, 2022 *Yesterday*
- 2 Saturday, November 12, 2022 *The day before yesterday*
- 3 Monday, November 7– Friday, November 11, 2022 *Last week*
- 4 2021 *Last year*
- 5 October 17–21, 2022 *Four weeks ago*
- 6 Monday, November 7, 2022 *A week ago*