



ENGLISH

Chapter 4 Session B

2nd
SECONDARY

HOUSE AND HOME
Simple Past



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***be*: Simple Past**

- 1** Read the sentences below. Underline the verb *be* in the simple past.
 - a** The Victorian era was the start of industrial Britain.
 - b** The toilet was outside.
 - c** Their jobs were stressful.
 - d** Many young people weren't married.
 - e** It wasn't an easy life.

2 Match the columns to complete the rules about the simple past of *be*. Then complete the chart below.

a *Was* is the simple past affirmative form of *be* with ...

b *Were* is the simple past affirmative form of *be* with ...

c The negative simple past forms of *be* are ...

☐ *we, you, they.*

☐ *was not or wasn't / were not or weren't.*

☐ *I, he, she, it.*

affirmative

I _____ outside.

You _____ at home.

He / She / It _____ in the kitchen.

We / You / They _____ popular.

negative

I _____ at school.

You _____ in the living room.

He / She / It _____ inside.

We / You / They _____ in the garden.

3 Complete the sentences with *was* or *were*.

- a** Igloos _____ the traditional houses of the Inuit people.
- b** Snow _____ the traditional material for igloos in Canada and Greenland.
- c** In other Arctic areas, bone _____ the main material.
- d** Small igloos _____ temporary houses.
- e** A big, permanent igloo _____ traditionally the home of about 20 people!



- 4 Complete the text with the simple past form of *be*.



Historically, the tepee **a** _____ the traditional home of Native Americans from the Great Plains. They **b** _____ dry during the rain, and they **c** _____ (not) hot in summer. The tepee **d** _____ perfect for these nomadic tribes because it **e** _____ durable and it **f** _____ (not) heavy.

- 5 Look at the sentences in the chart below.
How do you form the short answers?
-

questions and short answers
Was I at home at 3pm? Yes, I was . / No, I wasn't .
Were you here last week? Yes, you were . / No, you weren't .
Was he / she / it in the kitchen? Yes, he / she / it was . / No, he / she / it wasn't .
Were we / you / they at school? Yes, we / you / they were . / No, we / you / they weren't .
Where were you yesterday?

- 6 Now, choose the correct information to complete the rules.
- a In questions, *was* and *were* come **before** / **after** the subject.
 - b In short answers, sentences end with **the subject** / ***was, were, wasn't or weren't.***

7 Complete the questions with the simple past form of *be*. Then answer the questions.

a _____ the toilet inside the house during the Victorian era?

(X) _____

b _____ jobs and industry in the cities?


(✓) _____

c _____ most young people married?

(X) _____

PRONUNCIATION

was / were


- 1  21 Listen to the sentences. Do you hear *was* or *were*?

a _____

c _____

b _____

d _____

- 2  21 Listen again and repeat.



8



INTERFACE Work in pairs. Ask and answer questions using *be* in the simple past and the cues below.

Yesterday at 9pm ...

a you / at home? _____

b you / in bed? _____

c your parents / in the living room?

d your best friend / at school?

TIP

Use these time expressions with the simple past: *last (week, Saturday), ago (a year, one month), on (Monday, Tuesday), in (the winter, 2009).*

9 Complete the sentences with time expressions so that they are true for you. Use *last*, *ago*, *on* and *in*.

a I was at home _____.

b My family and I were in the kitchen together _____.

c My best friend wasn't in class
_____.

d My friends and I weren't at school
_____.



LISTENING

16th-century Houses

- 1 Alex and Emily are talking about houses for rich and poor people in the 16th century. Before you listen, complete the chart with the words in the box.

beds carpets chairs clocks toilets

	there were	there weren't
rich houses		
poor houses		



2



Listen and check your answers.



3



Listen again. Then write T for *true* or F for *false*.

- a ☐ There were two rooms in a poor family's house.
- b ☐ The beds were comfortable in all houses.
- c ☐ Chairs were very expensive.
- d ☐ There were carpets on the floor in rich people's houses.
- e ☐ Poor children were often late for school.





CULTURAL FACT

In the 16th century, glass was very expensive. If there were a lot of glass windows in a house, the family was very rich!



be: Simple Past

1 Underline the correct words.

This a was / were my family's beach house. Our summer vacation there **b was / were** fantastic. It **c wasn't / weren't** a comfortable place to stay. In fact, it **d was / wasn't** very basic.

The two bedrooms **e wasn't / weren't** big and they **f was / were** next to a living room and a small kitchen, and that was all! But it **g was / wasn't** a problem – we **h was / were** on the beach all day. It **i was / were** fun!

2 Rewrite the sentences in the simple past.

The weather isn't bad.

The weather wasn't bad.

a The days in August are long and hot.

b The beach is a lot of fun.

c The waves aren't very big.

d It isn't difficult for us to sleep.

3 Rewrite the sentences using the information in parentheses.

The house was near the city. (near the beach)

The house wasn't near the city. It was near the beach.

a It was their permanent home. (vacation home)

b The house was big. (small)

c There were five bedrooms. (two bedrooms)

4 Complete the dialogue with the words in the box.

was ~~was~~ was wasn't were
were ~~were~~ weren't

Dad Where were you last night?

Eva I was at home.

Dad **a** _____ Tom and Grace with you?

Eva No, they **b** _____.

Dad **c** _____ you in the kitchen?

Eva Yes, I **d** _____.

Dad **e** _____ the microwave on?

Eva No, it **f** _____.