

# Who was that?

## Strong and weak forms 4: Auxiliary verbs

A

We often use the weak forms of these verbs:

am is are was were have has do does can could

C64

Listen and repeat.

- 1 I<sup>w</sup>m ready.
- 2 It<sup>w</sup>s raining again.
- 3 A<sup>w</sup>re you coming?
- 4 You<sup>w</sup>re coming, aren't you?
- 5 Who was<sup>w</sup> that?
- 6 The shops were<sup>w</sup> all closed.
- 7 What have<sup>w</sup> you got in your hand?
- 8 Has<sup>w</sup> the programme started?
- 9 What do<sup>w</sup> you want for Christmas?
- 10 Where does<sup>w</sup> your sister live?
- 11 You can<sup>w</sup> stay here if you like.
- 12 Could<sup>w</sup> you spell your name for me, please?

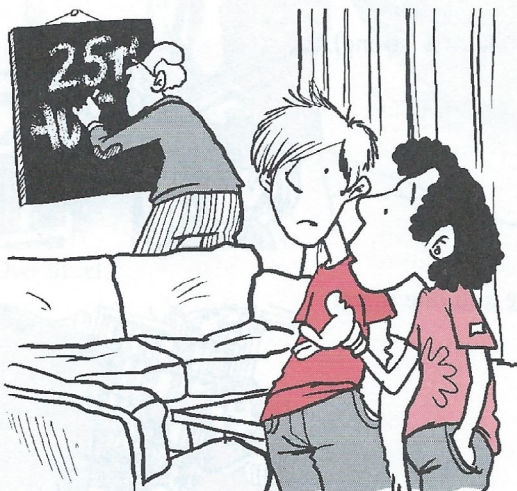
B

C65

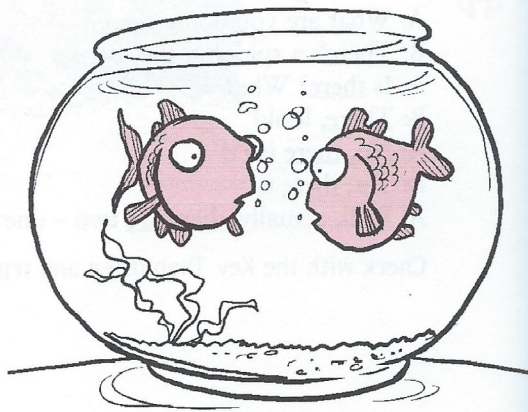
But if one of these verbs is stressed because it is especially important, or because we want to show a contrast, we use the strong form. Listen and repeat.

- 1 A: Are you ready? B: Yes, I am<sup>s</sup>.
- 2 A: It isn't raining, is it? B: Yes, it is<sup>s</sup>.
- 3 A: I'm not very good at English. B: Of course you are<sup>s</sup>!
- 4 A: Is your father a teacher? B: He was<sup>s</sup>, but he's retired now.
- 5 A: How many people are there in your class ... ten? B: There were<sup>s</sup> ten, but one left last week.
- 6 A: Have we met before? B: I don't think we have<sup>s</sup>.
- 7 A: Has it started? B: Yes, come on, it has<sup>s</sup>!
- 8 A: I don't like this music. B: Oh, I do<sup>s</sup>.
- 9 A: Does the supermarket open on Sundays? B: I think it does<sup>s</sup>.
- 10 A: I can't open this door. B: Let me try. Maybe I can<sup>s</sup>.
- 11 A: Can you play tennis? B: Not now. I could<sup>s</sup> when I was younger.

For more about *I'm*, *you're* and *it's*, see Unit 41.



Is your father a teacher?



Have we met before?



## Exercises

40.1



Listen, and notice the weak forms underlined.

It was winter. It was late. It was dark. It was snowing. I was walking along a street. There was nobody else in the town. I could see a light in a window. I could hear someone shouting, 'You're too late! We were here, all the time. We were waiting for you, but now it's too late!' Then I woke up. It was a dream!



C66b



Listen again and repeat.

40.2



Listen and mark the underlined words w (weak) or s (strong).

- A: I'm better than you!  
 B: No, you aren't!  
 A: I am. I've got more toys than you!  
 B: No, you haven't!  
 A: Yes, I have! And I can speak twenty languages!  
 B: You can't! Nobody can speak twenty languages!  
 A: I can. And I could walk when I was three weeks old!  
 B: You couldn't! That's impossible!  
 A: I could! You don't know – you weren't there!  
 B: I was! I'm older than you!  
 A: No, you aren't!  
 B: Yes, I am! I'm eight. How old are you?  
 A: I'm eight hundred.  
 B: What do you mean? Nobody can be eight hundred years old!  
 A: Don't argue!  
 B: I'm not arguing!  
 A: Yes, you are!



Check with the Key. Then listen again and repeat.

40.3

Mark the underlined words w if you think they will be weak and s if you think they will be strong.

- I could speak English when I was twelve.
- I wasn't very well yesterday, but I am today.
- A: Are these your gloves? B: Yes, they are. Thanks!
- A: I don't think you were at the lesson last week, were you? B: I was!
- A: I didn't think the singers in the band were very good. B: Oh, I thought they were!
- A: Have you got a pen? B: Just a minute, I think I have, somewhere.
- A: Has the lesson started? B: Yes, it has, but you can go in.
- A: Where does he live? B: Near the old town hall. Do you know where that is? A: Yes, I do.

C68



Listen and check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen again and repeat.