

# 6 LANGUAGE FOCUS • *there was(n't), there were(n't) • was(n't), were(n't)*

I can talk about past events.

## *there was(n't), there were(n't)*

- 1 Complete the examples from the text on page 74. Then choose the correct words in the Rules.

- 1 ..... two new events in Rio in 2016.
- 2 ..... an Olympic flag until 1920.

### RULES

- 1 We use *there was* and *there wasn't* with singular / plural nouns.
- 2 We use *there were* and *there weren't* with singular / plural nouns.

- 2 Complete the text with affirmative and negative forms of *there was* and *there were*.

The first marathon

2,500 years ago <sup>1</sup>..... a war between Greece and Persia and <sup>2</sup>..... a lot of battles. <sup>3</sup>..... a big battle in a place called Marathon, which the Greeks won\*. This was important news, but <sup>4</sup>..... any internet and <sup>5</sup>..... any telephones. So a man called Pheidippides ran\* to Athens with news of the battle. He ran about forty-one kilometres. <sup>6</sup>..... any good roads, so it was a difficult journey. When he arrived in Athens, he died.

\*won = past of win, ran = past of run.



- 3 Complete the sentences with affirmative and negative forms of *there was* and *there were*. Use *many*, *any* or *a / an*.

2,500 years ago ...

- 1 ... rich footballers.
- 2 ... chariot races.
- 3 ... country called Persia.
- 4 ... sport called skateboarding.
- 5 ... messengers.
- 6 ... iPads.

- 4 **USE IT!** Work in pairs. Compare your sentences in exercise 3.

## *was(n't), were(n't)*

- 5 Complete the sentences about the *Olympics timeline* text on page 74. Then complete the rule.

- 1 There ..... silver medals for winners.
- 2 Inge Sorenson ..... the youngest medallist.
- 3 Abebe Bikila from Ethiopia ..... the first African to win a gold medal.
- 4 Golf ..... an Olympic sport until 2016.
- 5 There ..... any games in 2020.

### RULE

*was* and *were* are the past forms of .....  
The negative forms of *was* and *were* are ..... and .....

- 6 Complete the sentences with *was* and *were* and your own ideas.

I ..... born in ..... I was born in Hồ Chí Minh City.

- 1 When I ..... younger, my favourite sport .....
- 2 The number one song last week .....
- 3 My first words .....
- 4 My favourite films last year .....
- 5 My favourite day last week .....
- 6 When I ..... younger, my hobbies .....
- 7 My last meal .....

- 7 **USE IT!** Work in groups. Compare your sentences in exercise 6.

### Finished?

Think of more differences between life 100 years ago and now. Use *there was*, *there were*, *was* and *were*.

