

5.5 Grammar

Past Simple: was/were, could

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

- 1 Complete the sentences with the correct positive or negative form of the verb **be** or **can**.
- 0 My brother is only three years old but he can swim quite well.
- 1 It ^a _____ three o'clock in the morning. I ^b _____ in bed but I ^c _____ sleep.
- 2 Hey, Jackie? ^a _____ you swim? ^b _____ you interested in a job? The swimming pool wants summer workers.
- 3 Louis ^a _____ very good at Spanish. He ^b _____ say 'Hello', he ^c _____ count to ten and he doesn't know what 'Gracias' means! He ^d _____ the worst student in the class!
- 4 My mum and dad ^a _____ angry with me because of my Maths test result. I work hard but I ^b _____ understand the Maths we are doing at the moment.

- 2 ★ Complete the text with the past forms of the verbs in brackets.

AMAZING CHILDREN

William Sidis ⁰ was (be) born in New York in 1898. He ¹ _____ (can) speak more than ten languages and when he ² _____ (be) eleven, he ³ _____ (be) already a student at Harvard University. He ⁴ _____ (be) a professor when he ⁵ _____ (be) twenty. He ⁶ _____ (be) amazing but, unfortunately, he ⁷ _____ (not/be) a happy child.

- 3 ★ ★ Complete the conversation between Elaine and her grandma with the correct past forms of the verb **be** or **can**.

- E: Hi, Grandma. What are those photos?
- G: They're my old photos from when I ⁰ was a teenager like you.
- E: Wow. Is that your motorbike?
- G: No, it ¹ _____ my brother's.
- E: ² _____ you drive?
- G: Not then. Driving lessons ³ _____ expensive and my parents ⁴ _____ pay for them.
- E: Oh, I like this one. Where ⁵ _____ you?
- G: We ⁶ _____ in Wales on a school trip. The weather ⁷ _____ very good – there ⁸ _____ lots of rain – but we ⁹ _____ very happy in the mountains. Every day ¹⁰ _____ the same – breakfast at 8 a.m., a 20-km walk and back to the hostel in the evening. We ¹¹ _____ so tired, we ¹² _____ move in the evenings. There ¹³ _____ any discos or parties – we ¹⁴ _____ in bed before 9 p.m.!
- E: ¹⁵ _____ you with grandfather then?
- G: No, I ¹⁶ _____ . He ¹⁷ _____ at the same school as me. Just a minute, ah, here's one of your grandfather and me. We ¹⁸ _____ twenty-one or twenty-two then ...

- 4 ★ ★ ★ Use the cues in brackets to make full questions and answers.

Conversation 1: Marcus and Sam

M: Hi, Sam. ⁰ Where were you yesterday (where/you/ yesterday)?

S: Hi. Sorry. ^a _____ (I/tired). ^b _____ (I/not/phone) you because ^c _____ (my phone/in) my bag at school.

Conversation 2: Jenny and Beverley

J: ^a _____ (David/really horrible) to me yesterday.

B: Really? Why?

J: ^b _____ (We/with) Ellen and Mark at the Sports Centre for a game of tennis. You know I can't play any ball sports. ^c _____ (I/not/hit) the ball! ^d _____ (David/not/happy) with me! He hates losing.

Conversation 3: Mr Smith and Kate

S: ^a _____ (Why/you late) to school this morning?

K: ^b _____ (My dad/not/find) his car keys.

S: ^c _____ (Where/they)?

K: ^d _____ (They/on) the bathroom cupboard!

SHOW WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT

- 5 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

- 0 were / yesterday? / why / sad / you
Why were you sad yesterday?
- 1 ten / swim? / when / could / were / you / you

- 2 night? / angry / why / was / Carole / last

- 3 homework. / Simon / with / couldn't / my / help / me

- 4 the guitar / when / Nikki / play / primary / could / she / in / school. / was

- 5 home / friends / the weekend. / my / at / weren't / at

- 6 couldn't / wallet / I / anywhere. / find / my

/6

