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Be: Past Simple (I was, I wasn't, was I ...?)

1 Osserva queste frasi con **was** e **were**:

I was in New York last week.

We weren't at home yesterday evening.

Was it a good film? ~ Yes, it was.

(Per le risposte brevi, vedi l'unità 45.)

2 Il Past Simple di **be** si costruisce in questo modo:

AFFERMATIVA			
SINGOLARE	I was You were He/she/it was		
PLURALE	We/you/they were		
NEGATIVA			
	FORMA INTERA		FORMA CONTRATTA
SINGOLARE	I was not You were not He/she/it was not		wasn't weren't wasn't
PLURALE	We/you/they were not		weren't
INTERROGATIVA			
SINGOLARE	Was I Were you	}	right?
	Was he/she/it		
PLURALE	Were we/you/they		right?

3 **Was/were** si usano quando si parla del passato. Osserva come vengono usate:

► **was/were** + fatti che riguardano il passato:

John F. Kennedy was an American president.

(= Kennedy era un presidente americano.)

Our first house was in the centre of town.

A: *Were your answers correct?*

B: *No, they were all wrong!*

Paula wasn't the first person at the party.

(= Paula non è stata la prima ...)

Nota che in italiano queste forme vengono tradotte il più delle volte con l'imperfetto; altre volte con il passato prossimo.

Ricorda che si usa **was/were** + **born**:

I was born in 1975. (= Sono nato nel 1975.)

(NON ~~*I am born*~~ ...)

► **was/were** + luogo e tempo:

	+ LUOGO	+ TEMPO
<i>We were</i>	<i>in Spain</i>	<i>in June.</i>
<i>She wasn't</i>	<i>at home</i>	<i>last night.</i>

George and Joanna weren't in London at the weekend. They were in Brighton.

Steve and Mary were here at six o'clock.

► **was/were** + aggettivo (es. **cold**, **tired**):

It was cold yesterday. (= Faceva freddo ieri.)

They were tired after the journey. (= Erano stanchi dopo il viaggio.)

The train was late again this morning.

A: *Were your exams easy?*

B: *The first exam was easy, but the second one wasn't.*

Esercizi

A Trasforma queste frasi al passato. Usa il Past Simple.

TODAY	YESTERDAY
0 I'm at home.	<i>I was at home.</i>
1 Jane and Michael are tired.
2 She's in the park.
3 It's a sunny day.
4 You're late.
5 They aren't hungry.
6 We aren't at work.
7 I'm thirsty.
8 You aren't at school!
9 We're at the cinema.
10 Paula isn't happy.

B Laura ha trascorso il fine settimana a Madrid. Formula alcune domande usando **was** o **were**.

- 0 (your hotel/good?) *Was your hotel good?*
- 1 (your room/comfortable?)
- 2 (the weather/nice?)
- 3 (the streets/full of people?)
- 4 (the shops/expensive?)
- 5 (the city/exciting at night?)
- 6 (the museums/interesting?)
- 7 (the people/friendly?)
- 8 (your flight/OK?)

C George e Sally sono sposati da 50 anni. Stanno parlando della loro prima casa. Usa **was** o **were** e una parola del riquadro per completare la conversazione.

new	Italian	big	green	cheap	cold	bad
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- 0 GEORGE: The house was warm.
SALLY: No, it *was cold.*
- 1 GEORGE: The garden was small.
SALLY: No, it
- 2 GEORGE: The neighbours were French.
SALLY: No, they
- 3 GEORGE: The living room was red.
SALLY: No, it
- 4 GEORGE: Our first chairs were expensive.
SALLY: No, they
- 5 GEORGE: The kitchen was old.
SALLY: No, it
- 6 GEORGE: The local shops were good.
SALLY: No, they

D Inserisci **was**, **wasn't**, **were**, o **weren't** negli spazi di queste conversazioni.

- PETER: 0 *Was* Paul at work today?
- JULIE: No, he 1 in the office. I think he's sick.
- HENRY: 2 you in South America last year?
- STEVE: Yes. I 3 in Bolivia on business, and then my wife and I
4 in Brazil for a holiday.
- PAULA: Philip and I 5 at home in London last week. We 6
at Mike's house in Cornwall. It was lovely there. Do you know Mike?
- JANE: Yes, I 7 at Mike's party in Oxford in the summer.
8 you there?
- PAULA: No, we weren't there. Philip and I 9 in Portugal in the summer.