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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	wasn't	
	You were not	weren't	
	He/she/it was not	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.