

Presentation

Use *was/were* to talk about the past.

Present	Past
am/is	was
are	were

Affirmative

I / He / She / It	was	busy.
You / We / They	were	

Negative

I / He / She / It	wasn't	at home on Saturday.
You / We / They	weren't	

Yes/No questions

Was	I / he / she / it	at the party?
Were	you / we / they	

Short answers

Yes,	I / he / she / it	was.
	you / we / they	were.

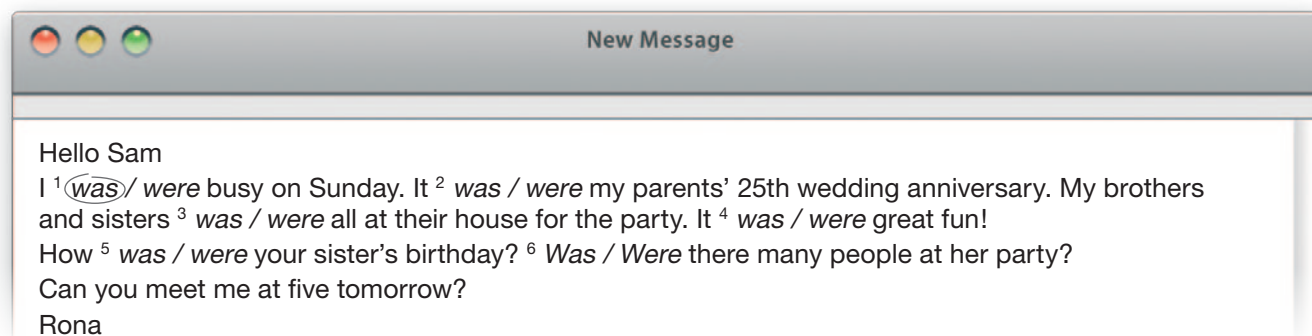
No,	I / he / she / it	wasn't.
	you / we / they	weren't.

Key vocabulary Time references: yesterday, last night, on Saturday, last year, in 1999

Special days: birthday, party, wedding, anniversary

Exercises

1 Read the email. Choose the correct forms.



2 Read about George's parents and Yukio's twin brothers. Are sentences 1–8 true (T) or false (F)?



My father and mother were born in 1957. He was from the USA but they were at Oxford University in England and their wedding was in England. Last year was their 25th wedding anniversary.



My brothers were born on 25th October, 1989. They were both at school at the same time but they weren't at the same university. Last week they were both twenty-one years old. There was a big party at our house for them.

- 1 George's parents were born in the same year.
- 2 They were from the USA.
- 3 His mother was at Oxford University.
- 4 Their wedding was last year.
- 5 Yukio's brothers were born on the same day.
- 6 They weren't at the same school.
- 7 Their twenty-first birthday was last week.
- 8 It wasn't a big party.

3 Complete the conversations with *was*, *were*, *wasn't* or *weren't*. Then listen and check.

Conversation 1

A: Hello, Nancy. How ¹ your weekend?

B: Great! Mike and I ² in New York.

A: That's amazing!

B: It ³ my birthday.

A: Happy Birthday!

Conversation 2

C: ⁴ James here this morning?

D: No, he ⁵

C: Where ⁶ he?

D: I think he ⁷ in a meeting with Sue and Rona. They ⁸ in Sue's office.

C: No, they ⁹ because I was with Sue in her office all morning!

Conversation 3

E: How ¹⁰ your sister's wedding?

F: Really good!

E: ¹¹ it big?

F: No, there ¹² many people, just family and good friends.