

# 6

## The past

### 6.1 Don't give up!

#### Grammar *was and were*

1 Make positive (+) or negative (-) sentences, or questions (?) using the past form of *be*.

- 1 (+) the co-founders of Microsoft / Bill Gates and Paul Allen *The co-founders of Microsoft were Bill Gates and Paul Allen.*
- 2 (?) the restaurant / expensive \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 (-) Harry's meal / very good \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 (+) I / very tired last night \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 (?) where / you / yesterday \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 (-) we / late for work this morning \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 (?) why / Vincent van Gogh / famous \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 (-) I / born in England \_\_\_\_\_

2 Choose the correct options to complete the article.

### IKEA is born

Ingvar Kamprad <sup>1</sup>was / *were* the founder of the furniture company IKEA. He <sup>2</sup>*was* / *were* born in 1926 in Sweden. His parents <sup>3</sup>*wasn't* / *weren't* rich – they <sup>4</sup>*was* / *were* farmers and the family home <sup>5</sup>*was* / *were* near a small village in the south of Sweden. Ingvar <sup>6</sup>*wasn't* / *weren't* interested in farming. He started IKEA in his uncle's kitchen in 1943. His first products <sup>7</sup>*was* / *were* pencils and other small items. There <sup>8</sup>*wasn't* / *weren't* any IKEA stores before 1958 – it <sup>9</sup>*was* / *were* only possible to buy things from IKEA by mail. The first IKEA store <sup>10</sup>*was* / *were* in Sweden, but now there are stores around the world.



3 Read the article in exercise 2 again. Complete the questions below with *was* or *were*, then write short answers.

- 1 Was Ingvar Kamprad born in Sweden?  
Yes, he was.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ his parents rich?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ they farmers?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Ingvar interested in farming?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ IKEA furniture on sale in 1950?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### PRONUNCIATION *the past of to be*

4a Are the words in **bold** stressed (S) or unstressed (U)?

- 1 **I was** tired last night. U
- 2 **Was** I tired last night?
- 3 Yes, I **was**.
- 4 No, I **wasn't**.
- 5 They **were** at home last night.
- 6 **Were** they at home last night?
- 7 Yes, they **were**.
- 8 No, they **weren't**.

- b 6.1** ))) Listen and check.
- c 6.1** ))) Listen again. Pause the listening and repeat after each sentence.
- 5a 6.2** ))) Listen to the pronunciation of *was/were*. Write stressed (S) or unstressed (U).
- 1 **A** Was Elvis Presley famous? U  
**B** Yes, he was. \_\_\_
  - 2 **A** Why was the doctor at your house? \_\_\_  
**B** My husband was sick. \_\_\_
  - 3 **A** Where were you yesterday? \_\_\_  
**B** We were at work. \_\_\_
  - 4 **A** Were the teachers at your first school nice? \_\_\_  
**B** Yes, they were. \_\_\_
  - 5 **A** When were you born? \_\_\_  
**B** I was born in 1992. \_\_\_
- b 6.2** ))) Listen again. Pause the listening and repeat after each sentence.

**Vocabulary** time expressions

- 6** Put the words in the right order to make sentences.
- 1 her / Jackie / in / hour / ago / was / office / an / half .  
Jackie was in her office half an hour ago.
  - 2 in / London Olympics / The / 2012 / were / last .  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 There / night / was / match / an / last / football / important .  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 year / Spain / We / in / were / last .  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 morning / was / tired / I / this / very .  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 6 Albert Einstein / nineteenth / in / century / born / the / was .  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 7 a / staff meeting / few / There / days / was / ago / a .  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 8 in hospital / She / two / ago / was / months .  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 7** Look at the events in exercise 6. Put them in order, with the most recent event first.

NOW

- 1 Jackie was in her office half an hour ago.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_

- 8** Complete the text. Use the word/phrase/date in (brackets) and add *in, last* or *ago*.

**FAMILY HISTORY**

My father-in-law, Glen, was a police officer, but he retired <sup>1</sup> in 2006 (2006). Now, he has more time and he enjoys researching his family history. Glen goes to family-history meetings every month and he visits museums all over the country to find out more information about his own family – <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (month) he was in York and this week he's in Cambridge.

<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (two years), he was in Wales. He was there because <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (the 19th century) his grandparents were farmers in Wales. It was <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (a long time), but the farm is there today! <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (year) he was in Canada – Glen's aunt moved to Canada <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (1935) and Glen has some cousins in Toronto. He was really happy to meet them when he was there <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (the summer). My husband and I were at Glen's house <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (night) and he showed us his photos of Wales and Canada – they were very interesting.

**I can ...**

	Very well	Quite well	More practice
use <i>was/were</i> to talk about the past.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
use other time expressions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>