

6.1 Don't give up!

GOALS ■ Use *was/were* to talk about the past ■ Use past time expressions

Reading & Grammar *was and were*

- 1 Work in small groups. Make a list of things a person needs to be successful in life. Do you all agree?
a good education, ...
- 2 Work with a partner. Student A, read about Vera Wang. Student B, read about Akio Morita. Complete your column in the table.

	Vera Wang	Akio Morita
Born (when?)		
Early career		
Problems		
Famous for ... (what?)		

Successful people who failed at first

A Vera Wang was born in New York in 1949 and her parents were from China. When she was younger she was a very good ice skater and she wanted to skate in the Olympics. However, she was very unhappy when she wasn't in the US Olympic team in 1968 and she decided to become a fashion designer. She worked fifteen years for *Vogue* magazine, then another two years with Ralph Lauren. Today, she is a very successful designer. She has her own fashion label Vera Wang and sells dresses for \$25,000!



B Akio Morita was born in 1921 and he was a businessman from the age of 25. He was the founder of Sony with his business partner and friend Masaru Ibuku. At first they weren't very successful. Their first product was an electric rice cooker and they only sold 100 of them because it always burnt the rice! Today, Sony is in the top 100 companies in the world.



Business Weekly

- 3 Tell your partner about the story you read and listen to your partner's story to complete the other column in the table in exercise 2. Which story do you think is most interesting? Why?
- 4 Underline the examples of *was*, *were*, *wasn't* and *weren't* in the article in exercise 2 and complete the information in the Grammar focus box.

GRAMMAR FOCUS *was and were*

- 1 _____ and 2 _____ are the past forms of *is* and *isn't*.
- 3 _____ and 4 _____ are the past forms of *are* and *aren't*.
(+) She **was** a very good ice skater.
Her parents **were** from China.
(-) She **wasn't** in the US Olympic team.
Morita and Ibuku **weren't** successful at first.
(?) **Was** it expensive? Yes, it **was**./No, it **wasn't**.
Were they born in China? Yes, they **were**./No, they **weren't**.

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- 5a Complete the article about a successful team using *was*, *were*, *wasn't* or *weren't*.

Cool Runnings ✕

People ¹ _____ surprised to see a bobsleigh team from Jamaica at the 1988 Winter Olympics in Canada. It ² _____ very easy for the team to practise in Jamaica before the Olympics because there ³ _____ no ice and there ⁴ _____ no bobsleighs for them to use. They ⁵ _____ successful in their races, but they ⁶ _____ very popular with the people watching because they tried so hard. There ⁷ _____ a film telling their story in 1993 called *Cool Runnings* and it ⁸ _____ a huge success, making \$150,000,000 around the world.

- b 6.1))) Listen and check your answers.



Vocabulary & Speaking time expressions

8a Work with a partner and do the History Firsts Quiz. Match questions 1–6 to answers a–f.

HISTORY FIRSTS

When was/were the first ...

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 football World Cup? | a In 1929. |
| 2 Olympics? | b In the 19th century. |
| 3 dishwasher? | c In 1927. |
| 4 Sony Walkman? | d In 1930. |
| 5 talking film? | e 2,800 years ago. |
| 6 Oscars ceremony? | f In 1979. |

PRONUNCIATION the past of *to be*

6a 6.2 Listen to the questions and short answers. Are *was*, *were*, *wasn't* and *weren't* stressed in the questions or in the answers?

- A *Was* there a bobsleigh team at the Olympics?
B Yes, there *was*.
- A *Was* it easy for them to practise?
B No, it *wasn't*.
- A *Were* there bobsleighs for them to use?
B No, there *weren't*.
- A *Were* they popular?
B Yes, they *were*.

b 6.3 Listen again and repeat.

7a Make questions from the prompts using *was* or *were*.

- you hungry / this morning?
Were you hungry this morning?
- you / a good student at school?
- your partner / late for class today?
- your teacher / at work yesterday?
- your school friends / from the same town as you?
- you / at home / seven o'clock last night?

b Work with a partner. Take turns to ask and answer the questions in exercise 7a.

b 6.3 Listen and check your answers.

9 Complete the table with the time expressions in the box.

three weeks ~~night~~ the 18th century year six months
week 2001 summer ~~a long time~~ 1999

in	last	ago
1999	night	a long time

10a Put the past time expressions in exercise 9 in the correct place on the timeline.



b Compare your answers with a partner.

11a TASK Complete the sentences by writing where you were at these times.

- I was on the bus two hours ago.
- I _____ at 3.30 yesterday afternoon.
- I _____ last Tuesday.
- I _____ last October.
- I _____ five years ago.
- I _____ last night.
- I _____ in 2008.
- I _____ last summer.

b Work with a partner. Take turns to guess about each other.

- A *Were you on the bus two hours ago?*
B *Yes, I was. Were you at work at 3.30 yesterday afternoon?*
A *No, I wasn't. I was at home.*