

### Presentation

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

Present	Past
am/is	was
are	were

*I/He/She/It was born in 1930.*

*I/He/She/It was English.*

*You/We/They were born in 1930.*

*You/We/They were Spanish.*

**Key vocabulary** **Special occasions:** birthday, party, new year, wedding

Exercises

1 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- |                                   |                                     |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Martin was born                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a on holiday.                   |
| 2 My sister and her husband       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | b was New Year's day.           |
| 3 Today is January 2nd. Yesterday | <input type="checkbox"/>            | c <del>on 25th May, 2001.</del> |
| 4 I was at                        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | d for work.                     |
| 5 You were late                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | e were married last month.      |
| 6 We were                         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | f a birthday party.             |

2 Choose the correct option.

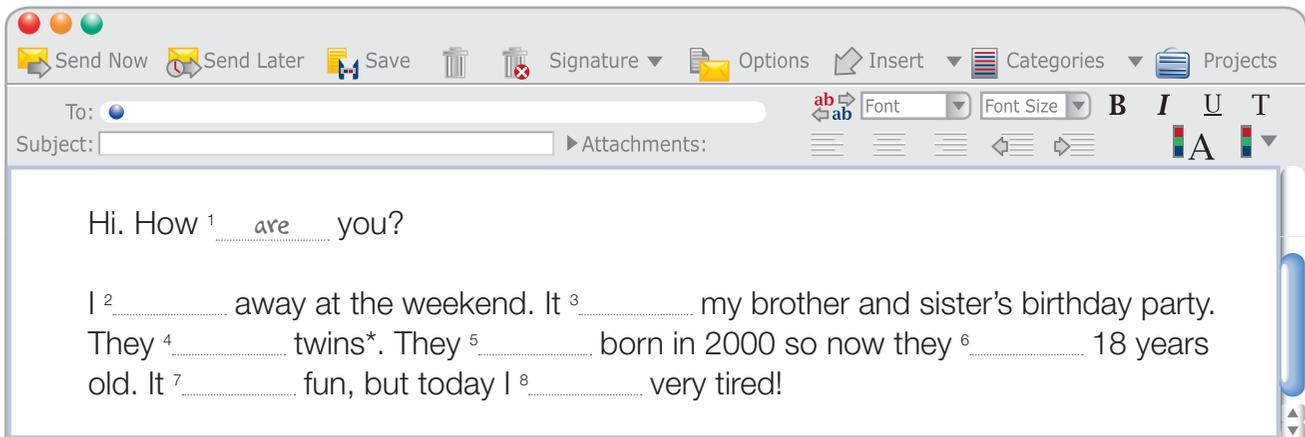
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 I <u>was</u> / were born in 1999.                                 | 7 Yesterday, we was / were at a birthday party.        |
| 2 They was / were born in 1989.                                     | 8 It was / were cold last night.                       |
| 3 The party was / were great fun.                                   | 9 You was / were eight years old in this photo.        |
| 4 My sisters was / were at the party.                               | 10 Sorry I was / were late for work this morning.      |
| 5 It was / were my brother's birthday.                              | 11 Last week, it was / were the Chinese New Year.      |
| 6 This is a photo of my parent's wedding.<br>It was / were in 1955. | 12 Sally and James was / were in Paris at the weekend. |

3 Complete the text with was or were.



Barack Obama <sup>1</sup> was the 44th president of the United States. He <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the president for eight years from 2008 to 2016. He <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ born in Honolulu in 1961. His parents <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ from different countries. His father <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ from Kenya and his mother <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ from the USA. At university, Barack <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a good student. Afterwards he <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a lawyer and then a politician in the US Senate. The wedding of Barack to Michelle <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in 1992 and their daughters <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ born in 1998 and 2001. In 2008 he <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 47 years old and he <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the first African-American president.

4 Complete the email with be. Use the present simple (am/are/is) or the past simple form (was/were).



(\*twins = brothers and sisters born on the same day)