Language summary

Grammar

Was / Were born

Wh- questions			
When	**was**	I / he / she / it	**born**?
Where	**were**	you / we / they	**born**?

Affirmative statements		Negative statements		
I	**was**		I	**wasn't**	
You	**were**		You	**weren't**	
He	**was**		He	**wasn't**	
She	**was**	**born** in Peru.	She	**wasn't**	**born** in Brazil.
It	**was**		It	**wasn't**	
We	**were**		We	**weren't**	
You	**were**		You	**weren't**	
They	**were**		They	**weren't**	

Yes / no questions	Short answers Affirmative	Short answers Negative
Was he **born** in 1879?	Yes, he **was**.	No, he **wasn't**.
Were they **born** in Mexico?	Yes, they **were**.	No, they **weren't**.

He was born in 1879. NOT *He borned in 1879. He was borned in 1879.*

Past of *be*

Wh- questions			
Where	**was**	I / he / she / it	on Sunday?
When	**were**	you / we / they	there?

Affirmative statements	Negative statements
Van Gogh **was** an artist. Reagan and Washington **were** U.S. presidents.	He **wasn't** an athlete. Reagan and Washington **weren't** scientists.

Yes / no questions	Short answers Affirmative	Short answers Negative
Was van Gogh an artist? **Were** Ronald Reagan and George Washington alive at the same time?	Yes, he **was**. Yes, they **were**.	No, he **wasn't**. No, they **weren't**.

• Use the past of *be* for actions that were completed in the past or for states of being in the past (such as where people lived, or what their jobs were).

Period of time + *ago*
I finished my research paper **three days ago.** Diego Rivera died more than **50 years ago.** I saw the new action movie **a week ago.**

• Use *ago* with periods of time, not specific times or dates.
• Use *ago* to refer to a period of time in the past in relation to the present moment.

Vocabulary

Careers
astronaut
athlete
composer
designer
director
explorer
politician
scientist

Personality adjectives
brave
caring
determined
honest
inspiring
intelligent
passionate
talented

Functions

Expressing certainty
I'm positive.
I'm certain.
I'm sure.

Expressing uncertainty
I'm not sure, but I think . . .
I'm not certain, but I think . . .
I'm not positive, but I think . . .