Unit 8 – Past Simple - Use

8.1 Verb *be* past simple

GR8.1)))

1 I **was** a happy child.
2 She **wasn't** at an expensive school.
3 We **weren't** poor.
4 His parents **were** rich.
5 **A Was** your house big? **B** No, it **wasn't**.
6 **A Were** they at home? **B** Yes, they **were**.

Positive (+)

I/He/She/It	was	a teacher.
You/We/They	were	sad.

Negative (–)

I/He/She/It	wasn't (was not)	at a good school.
You/We/They	weren't (were not)	happy.

Yes/No questions (?)	Short answers
Was he friendly?	Yes, he **was**. No, he **wasn't** (was not).
Were they politicians?	Yes, they **were**. No, they **weren't** (were not).

- We use *was/were* to talk about the past.
- *Was* is the past form of *am/is*.

  I **am** happy. → I **was** happy.
  She **isn't** rich. → She **wasn't** rich.
  There **is** a hospital. → There **was** a hospital.

- *Were* is the past form of *are*.

  You **are** an astronaut. → You **were** an astronaut.
  The apples **aren't** green. → The apples **weren't** green.
  There **are** six students. → There **were** six students.

Contractions

was not = **wasn't**   were not = **weren't**

GR8.2)))

1 You **studied** at university from 2007 to 2010.
2 He **travelled** to Namibia when he was twelve.
3 The film **started** at 8.40.
4 We **worked** in South America in 2008.

Positive (+)

I/You/He/She/It/We/They	played	football.

- We use the past simple to talk about finished actions and states in the past.
- To make the past simple, we add *-ed* to most regular verbs, e.g. *help**ed**, start**ed***.
- The past simple positive is the same for all persons, e.g. *I lived, He lived, They lived*, etc.
- When we use the past simple, we often say when the action happened.

  *I travelled around the UK **in 2014**.*
  *She finished school **at four o'clock**.*
  *They opened their first shop **when they were 25 years old**.*

Spelling rules

- We usually add *-ed* to the infinitive form.
  work → worked, want → wanted
- We add *-d* to verbs ending in *-e*.
  live → lived, die → died
- We delete *-y* and add *-ied* for verbs ending in consonant + *-y*.
  study → studied, marry → married
- Some verbs double the final consonant when we add *-ed*.
  travel → travelled, stop → stopped