

Talking about the past

Aims

Practice talking about the past with *be*.

Language focus

Grammar

Past of *be*

Set-up

Group work or class activity

Lesson link

For use after Unit 11, Lesson A

Time

30 minutes

Preparation

Duplicate one copy of the worksheet for each student.

5. **Group activity:** After 10 to 15 minutes, put students in groups of six to eight. Have each group put their sheets face down in a pile. Each student takes a sheet at random and reads two or three answers aloud. Students try to guess who wrote it. If they can't guess, the student can read more answers.

Class activity: For small classes, you could do this as a class activity. In that case, consider appointing a student to lead the activity. This will keep the activity more student-centered and allow you to assume the role of observer.

6. End the activity promptly after another 15 minutes. Ask if students were able to guess who wrote the worksheets. What information told them the answer?

7. **Option:** Instead of doing the activity in groups, post the worksheets around the classroom. Give each sheet a number. Students then walk around and read the sheets. When they think they know who wrote a sheet, they write down the number and the name. Students then discuss their ideas in groups or as a whole class.

Procedure

1. Distribute worksheets. Have students read the items. Answer any questions about vocabulary.
2. Tell students they are going to complete the sentences with true information about themselves, using the past form of *be*. Tell the students that after they complete the worksheets, the class is going to guess who wrote each worksheet.
3. As an example, show students a few different ways to complete the first item: *As a child, I was quiet. As a child, I was a bad student. I never did my homework.* Explain that they should add extra information whenever possible.
4. Have students complete the sentences individually. Make sure they do not write their names on the sheets. Walk around to monitor the activity and help as needed. Ask questions to give them ideas for adding extra information to their answers.

Talking about the past

My Past

1. As a child, I _____

We were
at the mall.

2. At the age of ten, my favorite singer _____

3. In seventh grade, I _____

My
vacation
was fun!

4. In my first year of high school, my favorite item of clothing _____

5. In the year 2004, I _____

6. My last birthday party _____



7. My last vacation _____

8. My favorite movie last year _____

9. The last time I saw my friends, we/they _____

I
was a good
student.

10. At 3:10 p.m. last Monday, I _____

11. Last weekend, I _____

I was on
the bus.

12. Last night, I _____
