



UNIT 9A · GENERAL A1

9A

Class Book and Workbook · one complete unit

By the end you will...

- Talk about places and feelings in the past
- Use was / were in positive, negative and question forms
- Ask and answer 'How was your weekend?'
- Use time expressions for the past: yesterday, last night, last weekend
- Describe a past experience in a short paragraph

Warm-up · How was your weekend?

Think about last weekend. Answer with short sentences: 'It was...'.

- How was your weekend? Good, bad or normal?
- Where were you on Saturday evening?
- Was the weather good or bad last weekend?

1. Lead-in · Last weekend in three words

Answer with 'It was...' or 'I was...'. Use one or two words, then a full sentence.

- Where were you on Saturday morning?
- Were you with family, with friends, or alone?
- Was the weather good or bad?
- Was your weekend busy or quiet?
- Three words for your weekend: for example 'hot, long, happy'.

Tell the class: 'My weekend was... because...'

2. Reading · Three weekends

Last weekend was great for Sofia. She was at the beach with her friends. The weather was sunny and the water was warm. 'It was one of my best weekends this year,' she says.

For Marco, the weekend was different. He was at home because he was ill. 'I was in bed all Saturday,' he says. 'It wasn't a fun weekend, but it was quiet, and now I feel better.'

Ana and her family were at a wedding on Saturday. 'The wedding was beautiful,' she says. 'We were happy, but also very tired! We were at the party until midnight.'

Comprehension

Where was Sofia last weekend?

Why was Marco's weekend quiet?

How did Ana feel after the wedding?

2b. Words in the texts

Match the word with the meaning.

- ill
not feeling well, sick
- a wedding
the event when two people get married
- exciting
makes you feel very interested and happy

- tiring
makes you feel very tired

2c. Talk about the texts

Answer in one or two sentences.

- Was your weekend more like Sofia's, Marco's or Ana's?
Answer key: Model: My weekend was like Marco's. I was at home because I was tired.
- Were you happy or tired on Sunday evening?
Answer key: Model: I was happy on Sunday evening because I was with my family.

The Best Weekend of the Year, Say Workers

Source: Apex English · graded news-style report · Original text written for Apex English (A1 graded reader)

A short report about a survey on people's favourite weekends.

A new survey asked 1,000 workers: 'Was there one weekend this year that was special?' Most people said yes, and they remembered it very clearly.

For many people, the best weekend was a trip with family or friends. It wasn't always far away — some people were at the beach, others were in the mountains, and some were just at home with people they love.

The weather wasn't important for most people. 'My best weekend was rainy,' one person said. 'But we were together, and that was enough.' Researchers say happy memories are usually about people, not places.

1. READ FOR GIST

- What is the text about?
Answer key: A survey about people's best weekend of the year.
- What is usually more important — people or the weather?
Answer key: People — being together matters more than the weather.

2. READ FOR DETAIL

- How many workers were in the survey?
Answer key: 1,000 workers.
- Where were some people during their best weekend?
Answer key: At the beach, in the mountains or at home.
- What did one person say about a rainy weekend?
Answer key: It didn't matter because they were together.

3. GLOSSARY

survey

questions you ask many people to learn about their opinions

special

different and important, not usual

researcher

a person who studies something carefully

memory

something you remember from the past

4. DISCUSS IN PAIRS

- What was your best weekend this year? Where were you?
- Do you agree that people are more important than places for a good memory?

3. Vocabulary · Places, feelings & time expressions

SET A

the beach / the mountains / the countryside

places you visit for a trip

a party / a wedding / a concert

social events

happy / sad / tired / excited

feelings

relaxing / boring / busy

words to describe an experience

yesterday / last night / last weekend

time expressions for the recent past

two days ago / last week

more time expressions for the past

SET B

How was your weekend?

a very common question on Monday

It was amazing / terrible / OK.

answer with an adjective

Where were you?

ask about place in the past

I was at home / at work / on holiday.

answer with 'was' + place

Practice

Complete with ONE word.

- How was your weekend? — It was great.
- We were at a concert on Friday.
- I was tired yesterday.
- The party was very fun. Everyone was happy.
- Were you at home last night?

3b. What was it like?

Match the event with a common description.

- a long flight
tiring
- a day at the beach
relaxing
- a boring film
boring
- a big family party
exciting
- a quiet Sunday
relaxing

4. Grammar · was / were

Positive: I/he/she/it + was

I was at home. He was tired. It was a good day.

Positive: you/we/they + were

You were late. We were at the beach. They were happy.

Negative: wasn't / weren't

I wasn't at work. They weren't at the party.

Questions: Was / Were

Was she at home? Were you at the concert? Yes, I was. / No, I wasn't.

Wh- questions

Where were you? How was the film? Why was he late?

Time expressions

yesterday, last night, last weekend, last week, two days ago — use with was/were for finished time.

was/were vs is/are

Now: I am tired. Past: I was tired last night.

4a. was or were?

Complete with was or were.

- I ___ at home yesterday.
Answer key: was
- They ___ at a wedding last Saturday.
Answer key: were
- She ___ ill last week.
Answer key: was
- We ___ tired after the party.
Answer key: were
- It ___ sunny yesterday.
Answer key: was
- You ___ late for class this morning.
Answer key: were

4b. Make it negative

Write the sentence with wasn't or weren't.

- I was at work. (negative)
Answer key: I wasn't at work.
- They were happy. (negative)
Answer key: They weren't happy.
- It was cold. (negative)
Answer key: It wasn't cold.
- We were at home. (negative)
Answer key: We weren't at home.

4c. Make questions

Write a question with was or were.

- you / at the concert / last night
Answer key: Were you at the concert last night?
- the film / good
Answer key: Was the film good?
- they / tired / after the trip
Answer key: Were they tired after the trip?
- how / your weekend
Answer key: How was your weekend?

Look at the picture and use the grammar you just studied

Look at the picture. Write 4–5 sentences about the party. Use was/were and time expressions.

5. Listening · Monday morning at the office

Two colleagues, Priya and Tom, talk about their weekend on Monday morning. Listen for the places and feelings.

Two voices — no narrator introduction.

Before you listen

- Do you talk about your weekend on Monday?
- What do you usually say?

First listen — gist

- Was Priya's weekend good or bad?
Answer key: Good — she was at a festival and it was great.
- Was Tom's weekend good or bad?
Answer key: Not very good — he was at home and he was ill.

Second listen — detail

- Where was Priya on Saturday?
Answer key: At a music festival with her sister.
- What was the weather like at the festival?
Answer key: It was hot but nice.

- Why was Tom's weekend quiet?
Answer key: He was ill on Saturday and Sunday.
- What does Tom say about today?
Answer key: He says he feels better today.

5b. Useful language

Match the phrase with the use.

- How was your weekend?
start the small talk
- It was amazing!
give a very positive answer
- I wasn't very well.
explain you were ill
- Feel better soon!
wish someone good health

6. Speaking · How was it?

Work in pairs. Ask and answer about a past weekend, trip or event using was/were.

- Monday small talk
A: Ask your partner about their weekend.
B: Answer with a place, a feeling and one detail.
- A trip last year
A: Ask about a holiday your partner had last year.
B: Describe where you were and how it was.

6b. Talk together

Ask and answer in pairs.

- How was your last birthday?
- Where were you last summer?
- Was your last holiday relaxing or exciting?
- What was the best weekend of this year?

6c. Mini presentation · My last weekend

Talk for 1 minute about last weekend.

- Where you were on Saturday
- Who you were with
- How you felt
- One interesting detail
- One sentence about Sunday

7. Writing · My last weekend

Write 40–50 words about last weekend. Use was/were at least four times, one negative form and one time expression (last weekend, on Saturday, etc.).

WORKBOOK · HOME PRACTICE

Unit 9A Workbook

Do this after class. Answers are marked for your teacher.

1. Vocabulary gap-fill

Complete each sentence with ONE word from the box.

- The film was very boring. I nearly fell asleep.
- We were at a concert last night — the band was great.
- My cousin got married. It was a beautiful wedding.
- The beach was very relaxing. I felt calm all day.
- She was ill last week, so she stayed in bed.
- After the long trip, we were very tired.
- The football match was exciting — the score was 3-3!

2. was or were?

Complete with was or were.

- I ___ at home yesterday.
Answer key: was
- They ___ at a party on Saturday.
Answer key: were
- She ___ tired after work.
Answer key: was
- We ___ at the beach last weekend.
Answer key: were
- It ___ cold last night.
Answer key: was
- You ___ late for the meeting.
Answer key: were
- He ___ happy about the news.
Answer key: was

3. Positive, negative or question?

Choose the correct type of sentence.

'Were you at home?' is a ___.

'I wasn't at work.' is a ___.

'She was ill.' is a ___.

'They weren't happy.' is a ___.

'How was the film?' is a ___.

'We were tired.' is a ___.

4. Find and fix the mistake

Each sentence has ONE mistake. Write it correctly.

- I were at home yesterday.
Answer key: I was at home yesterday.
- They was at a wedding.
Answer key: They were at a wedding.

- Was they happy?

Answer key: Were they happy?

- She wasn't at the party.

Answer key: She wasn't at the party. (correct — no mistake needed here, but check subject-verb agreement)

- How was your weekend?

Answer key: How was your weekend? (already correct)

- We weren't tired after the trip, we was happy.

Answer key: We weren't tired after the trip, we were happy.

5. Listening · Three weekends

Three people talk about last weekend. Listen for the places and feelings.

- Speaker 1: where was she?

Answer key: At a concert with friends — it was exciting.

- Speaker 2: why was his weekend quiet?

Answer key: He was ill, so he stayed in bed.

- Speaker 3: how was the wedding?

Answer key: It was beautiful, but they were very tired after.

6. Writing · A memorable weekend

Write 40–50 words about a memorable weekend. Use was/were at least four times and one negative form.

7. Reflection

Answer in one or two sentences.

- Is was/were difficult for you? Give one example sentence.

Answer key: Model: I always forget 'were' with 'they'. Example: They were tired.

- Write two feelings you had last weekend.

Answer key: Model: I was happy on Saturday and tired on Sunday.