Is, are, was, were: answers and notes

What your child practised: choosing is, are, am, was or were with an -ing verb to show something going on now or in the past, and the Standard English "we were" (Year 2).

Page 1 · Warm up

Mia **is** singing · The boys **are** jumping

Page 2 · Freeze frame!

Answers will vary. Check: you / we / they → **are**, **were**; one person or thing → **is**, **was**.

Page 2 · A. Is or are?

are · is · are · is

Page 2 · B. Was or were?

were · was · were · was

Page 3 · C. Into the past

The dog **was** barking.
We **were** walking to the park.
I **was** eating a pear.

Page 3 · D. My picture

Answers will vary: "I am riding my bike." → "I **was** riding my bike." Check the -ing verb stays the same and only the helper changes.

Challenge: No. "We" goes with **were**: **"We were playing football."** "We was" is common in speech in some places, but in written Standard English it is always "we were".

Watch out for

- **"We was", "they was", "you was":** say the "we were" song from page 1 together.
- **Changing the -ing verb as well:** "I was ate". Only the helper word changes: "I was eating".
- **Leaving out the helper:** "The cat sleeping." Ask "Is it going on now, or was it?" and add is or was.
- **"I were":** with I, the past helper is **was**: I am → I was.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Window watch:** look outside and say what is going on: "A man is walking. The trees are swaying." Then close your eyes and say it in the past.
- **Phone a friend:** in a pretend phone call, ask "What were you doing yesterday?" and answer with "I was…".
- **In the game:** Chapter 5, Time Detective, hunts for tense mix-ups and fixes them.