



Who was he?

Lesson code: 135I-61QF-97M8

ELEMENTARY

American English

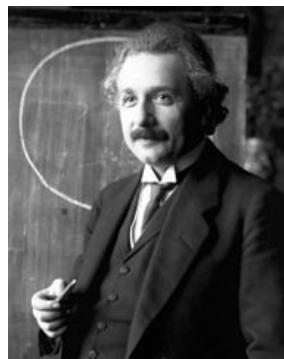
1 Famous people

Write the correct name below each picture.

Albert Einstein

Elvis Presley

Winston Churchill



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Now complete the text about each person.

1874
music
rich
the United Kingdom

1935
pianist
scientist

Germany
poor
singer

- He was a famous American _____. He was famous for his _____. He was born in _____ in Mississippi, USA. His parents were very _____ -- it was a difficult time for the American economy.
- He was a German _____. He was famous for his theory of relativity. He was born in 1879 in _____. His father was a businessman and his mother was a _____.
- He was the prime minister of _____ from 1940-1945 and 1950-1951. He was born in England in _____. His parents were _____ and famous -- his father was a politician and his mother was the daughter of an American millionaire.



2 Past of 'be'

Look at the table below.

affirmative forms	negative forms	questions
I was	I wasn't	Was I?
You were	You weren't	Were you?
He/she/it was	He/she/it wasn't	Was he / she / it?
We were	We weren't	Were we?
You were	You weren't	Were you?
They were	They weren't	Were they?

Short answers

Yes, I was. / Yes, you were. / Yes, he was ...

No, I wasn't. / No, you weren't. / No he wasn't ...

3 Practice

Complete the sentences:

1. Albert Einstein _____ the prime minister of the United Kingdom.
2. Winston Churchill _____ born in 1874.
3. Elvis Presley _____ a scientist.
4. Einstein's parents _____ German.
5. Churchill's father _____ a pianist.
6. Churchill's parents _____ poor.
7. Elvis _____ famous for his music.
8. Churchill _____ famous for his music.
9. Elvis _____ born in 1935.
10. Einstein _____ born in Mississippi.



4 Who was he/she?

Work in pairs. Think about a famous historical person in your country. Ask and answer the questions:

- Who was he/she?
- Where was he/she from?
- Were his/her parents rich?
- Where were his/her parents from?
- When was he/she born?
- What was he/she famous for?

5 Interview

Interview your partner. Ask and answer:

- Where were you born?
- Where was your mother born?
- Where was your father born?
- Where were you last weekend?
- When was your last vacation?
- What was the weather like yesterday?
- Were you at home last weekend?
- Were you with your family last night?



1 Famous people

Students can work alone and check in pairs. Go through the answers with the class.

1. Elvis Presley
2. Albert Einstein
3. Winston Churchill

Pre-teach any unfamiliar vocabulary, e.g. 'famous for', 'scientist', 'be born in', how to read years (1935 - nineteen thirty-five), etc. Students should try to guess or recall the answers from their general knowledge. Read the completed texts to the class.

1. singer; music; 1935; poor
2. scientist; Germany; pianist
3. the United Kingdom; 1874; rich

2 Past of 'be'

Go through the past forms of the verb 'be' with the class.

3 Practice

Students can work alone and check in pairs. Go through the answers with the class.

1. wasn't
2. was
3. wasn't
4. were
5. wasn't
6. weren't
7. was
8. wasn't
9. was
10. wasn't

4 Who was he/she?

Put the students into pairs. If the activity isn't feasible in your class, write the names of some famous historical figures on the board and allow the students to select people they are familiar with. Alternatively write the names of two figures and provide basic biographical data. Choose one of the figures from Exercise 1 and model the dialogue with a strong student. Monitor the activity providing key vocabulary where necessary and encourage use of 'I think ...'/'I'm not sure, but I think ...'/'I don't know' if the students are unsure of any biographical information.

