

100 years ago: Was / were

by Jill Hadfield

Level: Elementary / Pre-intermediate

Target age: Secondary / Adult

Time needed: 15 minutes

Grammar objective: to practise the use of *was / were*

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per six–eight students

Summary: a team competition to practise *was, were, wasn't, weren't*

Procedure

1. Put students in teams of six–eight. Appoint a scribe for each team and give each scribe a copy of the worksheet.
2. Tell students that they have to think of as many sentences as possible for each column and that the team with the most correct sentences at the end of the game will be announced the winner.

Give them these example sentences:

100 years ago there weren't any computers.

100 years ago there were more tigers in Asia.

100 years ago there was less travel.

100 years ago there wasn't a flag on the moon.

3. Tell teams they have five minutes to write as many sentences as they can.

4. When the time is up, the teams read out each sentence they've written. The other team need to decide whether the sentence is correct, both factually and from a language standpoint. If it is, the team scores a point. The team with most correct sentences is the winner.

Note: It's worth spending some time thinking of examples as a class before the activity to get ideas flowing.

