



Mac and Rory Grammar Stories Lesson Plan – I Was... (Sad Without You!)

1. Lesson Aim

The aim of this lesson is to help students to:

- say where they were,
- describe things, and
- ask questions

...with the simple past tense of the verb “to be”.

2. Warm-Up

Draw a timeline on the board, with an arrow in both directions, labeling it with now, past and future. Underline “past”.



Tell your students where you were yesterday using the simple past of the verb “to be”. Try to make it current and something they can relate to, for example...

“Last night I was at the movies. The movie, XXXXX, was incredible!”

As you say your sentence, write down “I was at the movies.” and “It was

amazing.” Underline “was” in both sentences. Ask if anyone else was at the movies. If someone says yes, write “you were” on the board.

And if a few people say they were too, write “They were at the movies.” Finish the warm-up by saying, “We are looking at the verb “to be” in the simple past today.”

3. Reading The Mac And Rory Grammar Story

Read the *Mac and Rory Grammar Story – I Was*. You can either bring students through the online version or hand out the paper version. If you are using the paper version, ask for volunteers to play the roles of Mac and Rory and get them to read the story aloud.

4. Vocabulary

Read the Glossary at the end of the story. Check that your students understand all the words and phrases.

5. Story Discussion

Go through each picture of the *Mac and Rory Grammar Story – I Was*, asking questions and explaining the grammar points as you go.

We use “to be” a lot when we talk about things in the past, for example...

- I was at home.
- You were at school.
- Sarah was here.
- He was in the garden.
- We were hungry.
- Mac and Rory were tired.

To make the negative, add “not”. Most people use the conversational form when they talk. You can use either.

- I was not... I wasn't
- you were not... you weren't
- she was not... she wasn't
- he was not... he wasn't
- it was not... it wasn't
- we were not... we weren't
- they were not... they weren't



You can also use question words, for example...

- Where was I in this picture?
- Who were you in the show?
- When was she here?
- What were their names?
- Why were we there?
- How was the movie?

To make a question, change the position of the verb.

- Was I in your house before?
- Were you at school today?
- Was Mac here earlier?
- Were Mac and Rory in the park?

6. Practice Sheet

Ask your students to complete *the Mac And Rory Grammar Story Practice Sheet*.

7. Role Play

Ask your students to think about something interesting they did yesterday, last week, or last year. Divide them into groups. Get them to tell each other about what they did. Here are some questions you can write on the board to encourage them:

- Where were you?
- Who was with you?
- How long were you there?
- What was your favourite* part?
- Why was it good?

8. Homework

Ask your students to pick one of their favourite photos of themselves when they were much younger and write down some information about why it's their favourite. Here are some questions to help them:

- Where were you when the photo was taken?
- How old were you?
- Who was with you?
- Name three things that were good about that time and place.

9. Summary And Finish

Summarise* what you did in the class using the simple past of the verb to be, saying for example..., "Today's lesson was about the simple past of the verb "to be". The Mac And Rory Story was about Rory's holiday* in Rome. Was it a good class? Of course it was!"

10. Extra Activities

Dictation

Write "Colosseum" on the board as it is tricky to spell.

Rory was in Rome. It was really good. His favourite place was the Colosseum. His favourite food was pasta. Rory was very happy in Rome, but also was sad because Mac wasn't there with him.

Hall of Fame

Put photos or drawings of famous people on the wall. You can use people that your students would or wouldn't know. (For example, you could use photos of famous people from Italy, Leonardo Da Vinci, Sophia Loren, Julius Caesar, Maria Montessori, Michelangelo, Marco Polo and other famous people from Italy.)

Write a number of occupations on the board: artist, teacher, actor, emperor, scientist, engineer and explorer.

Ask your students, who were they, and what were they famous for? Tell them to guess if they don't know.

*holiday (UK English) vacation (US English)
favourite (UK English) favorite (US English)
summarise (UK English) summarize (US English)