

이었어요 / 였어요 / 있었어요

Past identities and states at a birthday

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Photos on the wall

Korean

Read & listen
online



Past identities and states at a birthday

For was/were with a noun, use **이었어요** after a consonant and **였어요** after a vowel: **학생이었어요**, **의사였어요**. These endings are the same for every person. They describe a past identity, not a completed action.

있었어요 means was/were there or had; **없었어요** means was/were not there or did not have. Learn these frequent state forms now. **아니었어요** says was not when denying an identity.

Time words such as **그때** and **어제** place a short sentence in the past. Productive past action verbs come in module 7. Until then, recognise these useful forms as a small, fixed group.

Form	Example	Meaning
학생 이었어요	학생 이었어요 .	was a student
의사 였어요	의사 였어요 .	was a doctor
있 었어요	집에 있 었어요 .	was at home
없 었어요	시간이 없 었어요 .	had no time

지훈 씨는 학생이었어요.

Jihun was a student.

엄마는 의사였어요.

Mum was a doctor.

그때 나비가 있었어요.

Nabi was there then.

어제 시간이 없었어요.

I had no time yesterday.

의사가 아니었어요.

He/she was not a doctor.

생일 파티였어요.

It was a birthday party.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL FORMS

Underline the highlighted form described in this unit.

- 1 지훈 씨는 학생 이었어요.

Meaning: Jihun was a student.

- 2 엄마는 의사 였어요.

Meaning: Mum was a doctor.

- 3 그때 나비가 있었어요.

Meaning: Nabi was there then.

4 어제 시간이 없었어요.

Meaning: I had no time yesterday.

G2) CHOOSE THE FRIENDLY POLITE FORM

Choose the form that fits the English meaning and the polite sentence.

1 지훈 씨는 학생_____.

- ☐ A 이었어요
- ☐ B 예요
- ☐ C 였어요

Meaning: Jihun was a student.

2 엄마는 의사_____.

- ☐ A 였어요
- ☐ B 이에요
- ☐ C 이었어요

Meaning: Mum was a doctor.

3 그때 나비가 _____.

- ☐ A 아니었어요
- ☐ B 있었어요
- ☐ C 예요

Meaning: Nabi was there then.

4 어제 시간이 _____.

- ☐ A 아니었어요
- ☐ B 이에요
- ☐ C 없었어요

Meaning: I had no time yesterday.

5 의사가 _____.

- ☐ A 아니었어요
- ☐ B 있었어요
- ☐ C 없었어요

Meaning: He/she was not a doctor.

6 생일 파티_____.

- ☐ A 였어요
- ☐ B 이에요
- ☐ C 이었어요

Meaning: It was a birthday party.

G3) COMPLETE A SHORT MESSAGE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

아니었어요 있었어요

그때 나비가 _____.

Meaning: Nabi was there then.

아니었어요 없었어요

어제 시간이 _____.

Meaning: I had no time yesterday.

없었어요 아니었어요

의사가 _____.

Meaning: He/she was not a doctor.

이었어요 였어요

생일 파티 _____.

Meaning: It was a birthday party.

G4) BUILD USEFUL SENTENCES

Put the words in order.

- 1

Meaning: Nabi was there then.

- 2

Meaning: I had no time yesterday.

- 3

Meaning: Yes. He/she was not a doctor.

- 4 생일 네. 파티였어요.

Meaning: Yes. It was a birthday party.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 Jihun was a student. You say:

- (A) 지훈 씨는 학생였어요.
(B) 지훈 씨는 학생이었어요.

2 Mum was a doctor. You say:

- (A) 엄마는 의사이었어요.
(B) 엄마는 의사였어요.

3 Nabi was there then. You say:

- (A) 그때 나비가 있었어요.
(B) 그때 나비가 아니었어요.

4 I had no time yesterday. You say:

- Ⓐ 어제 시간이 없었어요.
- Ⓑ 어제 시간이 아니었어요.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ① 지훈 씨는 학생이었어요. | ⑤ Nabi was there then. |
| ② 생일 파티였어요. | ⑥ He/she was not a doctor. |
| ③ 어제 시간이 없었어요. | ⑦ I had no time yesterday. |
| ④ 그때 나비가 있었어요. | ⑧ Jihun was a student. |
| ⑨ 엄마는 의사였어요. | ⑩ It was a birthday party. |
| ⑪ 의사가 아니었어요. | ⑫ Mum was a doctor. |