

SCENE 20 • GRAMMAR

Voltam, voltál, volt

Past states in photos

8 Exercises • Duration: 25 min.

Photos on the wall

Hungarian

Read & listen online 

The past tense places a state or event before now. Start with the complete past of be: **voltam, voltál, volt, voltunk, voltatok, voltak**. Unlike present identity, past identity keeps this verb: **Ő tanár volt**.

Past states in photos

The past of be is **voltam, voltál, volt, voltunk, voltatok, voltak**. In the past, third-person identity and adjective statements also need the verb: **Bence kicsi volt**. Learner gender never changes the form.

Past negation normally uses **nem voltam, nem volt**. **Nem én voltam** is it was not me. Early **itt laktam** and **játszottál** are useful childhood chunks. General past endings come in module 8.

Person	lenni	Meaning
én	voltam	I — was
te	voltál	you, familiar — were
ő · ön	volt	he/she — was; you polite — were
mi	voltunk	we — were
ti	voltatok	you familiar plural — were
ők · önök	voltak	they/you polite plural — were

Én kicsi voltam.

I was little.

Te itt voltál.

You were here.

Ő itt volt.

He/she was here.

Mi itt voltunk.

We were here.

Ti itt voltatok.

You were here, familiar plural.

Ők itt voltak.

They were here.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN

Underline the form practised in this unit.

1 Én kicsi voltam.

Meaning: I was little.

2 Te itt voltál.

Meaning: You were here.

3

Meaning: He/she was here.

4

Meaning: We were here.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM 1

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 **Én** _____ **itt.**

- ☐ A voltam
- ☐ B volt
- ☐ C voltál

Meaning: I was here.

2 **Te** _____ **itt.**

- ☐ A voltál
- ☐ B volt
- ☐ C voltam

Meaning: You (familiar singular) were here.

3 Ő _____ itt.

- ☐ A voltam
- ☐ B volt
- ☐ C voltál

Meaning: He/she was here.

4 Mi _____ itt.

- ☐ A voltam
- ☐ B voltál
- ☐ C voltunk

Meaning: We were here.

5 Ti _____ itt.

- ☐ A voltak
- ☐ B voltál
- ☐ C voltam

Meaning: You (familiar plural) were here.

6 Ők _____ itt.

- ☐ A voltak
- ☐ B voltál
- ☐ C voltam

Meaning: They were here.

7 Én kicsi _____.

- ☐ A voltak
- ☐ B voltál
- ☐ C voltam

Meaning: I was little.

G3) CHOOSE THE FORM 2

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Te itt _____.

- ☐ A voltál
- ☐ B voltam
- ☐ C voltunk

Meaning: You were here.

2 Ő itt _____.

- ☐ A voltatok
- ☐ B voltam
- ☐ C volt

Meaning: He/she was here.

3 Mi itt _____.

- ☐ A voltunk
- ☐ B voltam
- ☐ C volt

Meaning: We were here.

4 Ti itt _____.

- ☐ A voltál
- ☐ B voltam
- ☐ C voltatok

Meaning: You were here, familiar plural.

5 Ők itt _____.

- ☐ A voltunk
- ☐ B voltam
- ☐ C voltak

Meaning: They were here.

G4) RECALL THE FORM 1

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

voltam volt voltunk voltál

Én _____ itt.

Meaning: I was here.

volt voltál voltam voltunk

Te _____ itt.

Meaning: You (familiar singular) were here.

voltam voltunk voltál volt

Ő _____ itt.

Meaning: He/she was here.

voltunk volt voltál voltam

Mi _____ itt.

Meaning: We were here.

volt voltatok voltál voltam

Ti _____ itt.

Meaning: You (familiar plural) were here.

volt voltak voltál voltam

Ők _____ itt.

Meaning: They were here.

voltunk volt voltál voltam

Én kicsi _____.

Meaning: I was little.

G5) RECALL THE FORM 2

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

volt voltál voltunk voltak

Te itt _____.

Meaning: You were here.

voltál voltatok volt voltunk

Ő itt _____.

Meaning: He/she was here.

voltál voltunk voltatok volt

Mi itt _____.

Meaning: We were here.

voltatok volt voltál voltunk

Ti itt _____.

Meaning: You were here, familiar plural.

volt voltunk voltál voltak

Ők itt _____.

Meaning: They were here.

G6) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

1

Meaning: I was little.

2

Meaning: You were here.

3 itt ő volt.

Meaning: He/she was here.

4 Mi itt voltunk.

Meaning: We were here.

5 Ti voltatok. itt

Meaning: You were here, familiar plural.

6 Ők voltak. itt

Meaning: They were here.

G7) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 I was little. You say:

- ☐ A Én kicsi voltam.
- ☐ B Én kicsi voltál.

2 You were here. You say:

- ☐ A Te itt voltam.
- ☐ B Te itt voltál.

3 He/she was here. You say:

- ☐ A Ő itt volt.
- ☐ B Ő itt voltam.

4 We were here. You say:

- ☐ A Mi itt voltam.
- ☐ B Mi itt voltunk.

G8) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ① Ó itt volt. | Ⓐ You were here, familiar plural. |
| ② Ők itt voltak. | Ⓑ We were here. |
| ③ Ti itt voltatok. | Ⓒ They were here. |
| ④ Én kicsi voltam. | Ⓓ You were here. |
| ⑤ Te itt voltál. | Ⓔ I was little. |
| ⑥ Mi itt voltunk. | Ⓕ He/she was here. |