

SCENE 20 • GRAMMAR

Buvau, buvo

The past of būti

7 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Photos on the wall

Lithuanian

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So far every verb has been in the present tense, for now. The past tense says what was before. **būti**, to be, is the first verb you learn in the past: take **buv-** and add the ending for the person. **ne** goes in front, as always: **nebuva**, I wasn't.

BŪTI, TO BE: THE PRESENT AND THE PAST TENSE

Person	Present	Past	With ne	Meaning
Singular				
aš	esu	buva <u>u</u>	nebuva <u>u</u>	I am · I was · I wasn't
tu	esi	buva <u>i</u>	nebuva <u>i</u>	you are · you were · you weren't
jis · ji	yra	buvo	nebuvo	he, she, it is · was · wasn't
Plural				
mes	esame	buvo <u>me</u>	nebuvo <u>me</u>	we are · we were · we weren't
jūs	esate	buvo <u>te</u>	nebuvo <u>te</u>	you are · you were · you weren't

Person	Present	Past	With ne	Meaning
jie · jos	yra	buvo	nebuvo	they are · they were · they weren't

nėra with the genitive becomes **nebuvo** with the genitive: **Jo nėra**. He isn't here. **Jo nebuvo**. He wasn't there.

Age in the past works the same way: **Man buvo dešimt metų**. I was ten. And **kai**, when, joins two things: **Aš gyvenau tavo bute, kai buvau mažas**. I lived in your flat when I was little.

TIP

To say when you were born, learn two forms as they are: gimiau, I was born, and gimė, he or she was born. **Aš gimiau liepos dešimtą**. I was born on the tenth of July. **Elzė gimė kovo dvidešimt aštuntą**. Elzė was born on the twenty-eighth of March.

Aš gyvenau tavo bute, kai buvau mažas.

I lived in your flat when I was little.

Jis buvo labai geras žmogus.

He was a very good man.

Šeštadienį mes visi buvome Elzės gimtadienyje.

On Saturday we were all at Elzė's birthday party.

Aš gimiau liepos dešimtą.

I was born on the tenth of July.

Taip. Šukuosena buvo baisi.

Yes. The haircut was terrible.

GRAMMAR**G1) FIND THE WORDS**

Underline every past form of būti.

- 1 Aš gyvenau tavo bute, kai buvau mažas.

Meaning: I lived in your flat when I was little.

- 2 Jis buvo labai geras žmogus.

Meaning: He was a very good man.

- 3 Šeštadienį mes visi buvome Elzės gimtadienyje.

Meaning: On Saturday we were all at Elzė's birthday party.

- 4 Jonai, ar tu buvai geras berniukas?

Meaning: Jonas, were you a good boy?

- 5 Vaikai, kur jūs buvote?

Meaning: Children, where were you?

- 6 Mano šukuosena nebuvo baisi!

Meaning: My haircut wasn't terrible!

- 7 Aš nebuvo Hamburge, aš buvau čia.

Meaning: I wasn't in Hamburg, I was here.

- 8 Mes nebuvo kavinėje, mes buvome Elzės gimtadienyje.

Meaning: We weren't in the café, we were at Elzé's birthday party.

- 9 Miciau, kur tu buvai? Tu nebuvai čia!

Meaning: Micius, where were you? You weren't here!

G2) BUVAU, BUVAI, BUVO

Choose the right word for the gap.

- 1 Kai aš _____ mažas, gyvenau čia.

- ☐ A buvau
- ☐ B buvai
- ☐ C buvo

Meaning: When I was little, I lived here.

2 Jonai, tu _____ labai mažas!

- ☐ A buvai
- ☐ B buvote
- ☐ C buvau

Meaning: Jonas, you were very little!

3 Mano vyras _____ labai geras žmogus.

- ☐ A buvau
- ☐ B buvo
- ☐ C buvome

Meaning: My husband was a very good man.

4 Šeštadienį mes _____ Elzės gimtadienyje.

- ☐ A buvote
- ☐ B buvo
- ☐ C buvome

Meaning: On Saturday we were at Elzė's birthday party.

5 Ponia Ona, kur jūs _____?

- ☐ A buvote
- ☐ B buvai
- ☐ C buvome

Meaning: Mrs Ona, where were you?

6 Jonas ir Micius _____ viršuje.

- ☐ A buvo
- ☐ B buvau
- ☐ C buvome

Meaning: Jonas and Micius were upstairs.

G3) NEBUVAU, NEBUVO

ne goes in front, and the ending still shows the person.

1 Aš ten _____.

- ☐ A nebuvas
- ☐ B nebuvo
- ☐ C nebuvai

Meaning: I wasn't there.

2 Miciau, tu _____ geras katinas!

- ☐ A nebuvo
- ☐ B nebuva
- ☐ C nebuvai

Meaning: Micius, you weren't a good cat!

3 Mano šukuosena _____ baisi!

- ☐ A nebuvo
- ☐ B nebuva
- ☐ C nebuvo

Meaning: My haircut wasn't terrible!

4 Šeštadienį mes _____ kavinėje.

- ☐ A nebuvo
- ☐ B nebuvo
- ☐ C nebuvo

Meaning: On Saturday we weren't in the café.

5 Šeštadienį jūs _____ kavinėje.

- ☐ A nebuvo
- ☐ B nebuvo
- ☐ C nebuvo

Meaning: You weren't in the café on Saturday.

G4) NOW AND BEFORE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

gyvenu buvo esu buvau

Dabar aš _____ viršuje, bet kai _____ mažas, gyvenau
tavo bute.

Meaning: Now I live upstairs, but when I was little, I lived in your flat.

yra nėra buvo buvau

Mano vyro jau _____. Jis _____ labai geras žmogus.

Meaning: My husband is no longer with us. He was a very good man.

buvo gimė gimiau

Aš _____ liepos dešimtą, o Elzė _____ kovo dvidešimt aštuntą.

Meaning: I was born on the tenth of July, and Elzė on the twenty-eighth of March.

G5) WHO WAS IT?

Match the pairs.

① ji gimė

Ⓐ I was born

② mes buvome

Ⓑ we were

③ aš gimiau

Ⓒ you were (polite, or several)

④ jis buvo

Ⓓ she was born

⑤ aš buvau

Ⓔ I was

⑥ jos buvo

Ⓕ you were (to a friend)

⑦ jūs buvote

Ⓖ he was

⑧ tu buvai

Ⓗ they were (women)

G6) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Put the words in order.

- 1 buvau kai gyvenau bute, mažas. tavo Aš

Meaning: I lived in your flat when I was little.

- 2 Jis geras labai žmogus. buvo

Meaning: He was a very good man.

- 3 dešimtą. liepos gimiau Aš

Meaning: I was born on the tenth of July.

- 4 buvo Taip. Šukuosena baisi.

Meaning: Yes. The haircut was terrible.

- 5 jūs Šeštadienį kavinėje. nebuvote

Meaning: You weren't in the café on Saturday.

G7) THE RIGHT WORDS

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 Daiva asks where you were born. It was in Hamburg. You say:

- ☐ A Aš buvo Hamburge.
- ☐ B Aš gimiau Hamburge.
- ☐ C Aš gimė Hamburge.

- 2 Jonas shows you a photo of himself at ten. Tell him he was very little. You say:

- ☐ A Tu buvo labai mažas!
- ☐ B Tu buvau labai mažas!
- ☐ C Tu buvai labai mažas!

- 3 Rūta asks where you were on Saturday. You were at Elzė's birthday party. You say:**
- ☐ A Aš buvau Elzės gimtadienyje.
 - ☐ B Aš buvai Elzės gimtadienyje.
 - ☐ C Aš esu Elzės gimtadienyje.
- 4 Rūta asks if you were in the café on Saturday morning. You weren't. You say:**
- ☐ A Ne, aš nebuvo kavinėje.
 - ☐ B Ne, aš nebuvai kavinėje.
 - ☐ C Ne, aš nebuvau kavinėje.
- 5 Jonas asks if he was a good boy. Ona laughs and tells him he wasn't. Ona says:**
- ☐ A Ne, tu nebuvai geras berniukas!
 - ☐ B Ne, tu nebuvo geras berniukas!
 - ☐ C Ne, tu nebuvau geras berniukas!