

SCENE 20 • GRAMMAR

era, eram

Old photos and past states

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Photos on the wall

Romanian

Read & listen online 

Old photos and past states

Photos introduce a few past-state forms of **a fi**: **eram** (I was), **erai** (you were), **era** (he/she was), **eram** (we were), **erați** (you plural/polite were), **erau** (they were). This past tense is called the imperfect; use these forms for background states.

The verb itself does not change for male and female speakers. A following adjective does: **eram mic**, **eram mică**. Likewise **sunt căsătorit**, **sunt căsătorită**.

Learn **am fost** (I was), **a fost** (he/she was) and **m-am născut** (I was born) as fixed early expressions. Their participles do not change with the subject's sex. Completed past actions are taught productively later.

Eu eram în Hamburg.

I was in Hamburg.

El era mic.

He was little.

Eram mică (**mic**).

I was little.

Sunt căsătorită (**căsătorit**).

I am married.

Ei erau aici.

They were here.

Dumneavoastră erați aici.

You were here, polite.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN

Underline the form practised in this unit.

- 1 Eu eram în Hamburg.

Meaning: I was in Hamburg.

- 2 El era mic.

Meaning: He was little.

- 3 Eram mică.

Meaning: I was little.

4 Sunt căsătorită.

Meaning: I am married.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

1 Eu _____ în Hamburg.

- ☐ A eram
- ☐ B erau
- ☐ C era

Meaning: I was in Hamburg.

2 El _____ mic.

- ☐ A era
- ☐ B erați
- ☐ C eram

Meaning: He was little.

3 Eram _____.

- ☐ A mici
- ☐ B mică
- ☐ C micile

Meaning: I was little.

4 Sunt _____.

- ☐ A căsătoriți
- ☐ B căsătorite
- ☐ C căsătorită

Meaning: I am married.

5 Ei _____ aici.

- ☐ A erau
- ☐ B eram
- ☐ C era

Meaning: They were here.

6 Dumneavoastră _____ aici.

- ☐ A erați
- ☐ B erai
- ☐ C era

Meaning: You were here, polite.

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

mici mică

Eram _____.

Meaning: I was little.

căsătoriți căsătorită

Sunt _____.

Meaning: I am married.

era erau

Ei _____ aici.

Meaning: They were here.

era erați

Dumneavoastră _____ aici.

Meaning: You were here, polite.

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

1

eram

Eu

în

Hamburg.

Meaning: I was in Hamburg.

2 mic. era El

Meaning: He was little.

3 aici. Ei erau

Meaning: They were here.

4 erați Dumneavoastră aici.

Meaning: You were here, polite.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 I was in Hamburg. You say:

- ☐ A Eu era în Hamburg.
- ☐ B Eu eram în Hamburg.

2 He was little. You say:

- ☐ A El eram mic.
- ☐ B El era mic.

3 I was little. You say:

- ☐ A Eram mică.
- ☐ B Eram mici.

4 I am married. You say:

- ☐ A Sunt căsătorită.
- ☐ B Sunt căsătoriți.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

① Eu eram în
Hamburg.

Ⓐ I was little.

② Dumneavoastră
erați aici.

Ⓑ They were here.

③ Sunt căsătorită.

Ⓒ I am married.

④ Eram mică.

Ⓓ I was in Hamburg.

⑤ El era mic.

Ⓔ You were here, polite.

⑥ Ei erau aici.

Ⓕ He was little.