

SCENE 20 • GRAMMAR

Var / havde

First past forms and personal information

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Photos on the wall

Danish

Read & listen online ↗



The past tense describes an earlier time: **var**, **havde**.

First past forms and personal information

The simple past of **være** is **var** and of **have** is **havde**, for every subject.

These forms describe an earlier state: **Jeg var ti**, **Lejligheden var min**.

A few useful past chunks may have appeared in the story; practise the two core forms here first. **Gift** means married and does not change for a male or female person in this use.

Jeg var ti år.

I was ten years old.

Lejligheden var min.

The flat was mine.

Vi havde en kat.

We had a cat.

Han havde en trompet.

He had a trumpet.

Jeg er ikke gift.

I am not married.

Har du børn?

Do you have children?

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE PATTERN

Underline the form practised in this unit.

- 1 Jeg var ti år.

Meaning: I was ten years old.

- 2 Lejligheden var min.

Meaning: The flat was mine.

- 3 Vi havde en kat.

Meaning: We had a cat.

- 4 Han havde en trompet.

Meaning: He had a trumpet.

G2) CHOOSE THE DANISH FORM

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Jeg _____ ti år.

- ☐ A var
- ☐ B være
- ☐ C er

Meaning: I was ten years old.

2 Lejligheden _____ min.

- ☐ A var
- ☐ B være
- ☐ C er

Meaning: The flat was mine.

3 Vi _____ en kat.

- ☐ A har
- ☐ B havde
- ☐ C have

Meaning: We had a cat.

4 Han _____ en trompet.

- ☐ A har
- ☐ B have
- ☐ C havde

Meaning: He had a trumpet.

5 Jeg er ikke _____.

- ☐ A gift
- ☐ B giften
- ☐ C gifte

Meaning: I am not married.

6 Har du _____?

- ☐ A børn
- ☐ B barnet
- ☐ C barn

Meaning: Do you have children?

G3) COMPLETE A MESSAGE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

er var

Jeg _____ ti år.

Meaning: I was ten years old.

er var

Lejligheden _____ min.

Meaning: The flat was mine.

har havde

Vi _____ en kat.

Meaning: We had a cat.

har havde

Han _____ en trompet.

Meaning: He had a trumpet.

gifte gift

Jeg er ikke _____.

Meaning: I am not married.

barn børn

Har du _____?

Meaning: Do you have children?

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

- 1 var Jeg ti år.

Meaning: I was ten years old.

- 2 min. var Lejligheden

Meaning: The flat was mine.

- 3 havde Vi kat. en

Meaning: We had a cat.

- 4 en havde Han trompet.

Meaning: He had a trumpet.

- 5 ikke gift. Jeg er

Meaning: I am not married.

- 6 børn? Har du

Meaning: Do you have children?

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 I was ten years old. You say:

- (A) Jeg er ti år.
(B) Jeg var ti år.

- 2 The flat was mine. You say:

- (A) Lejligheden er min.
(B) Lejligheden var min.

3 We had a cat. You say:

- ☐ A Vi havde en kat.
- ☐ B Vi har en kat.

4 He had a trumpet. You say:

- ☐ A Han havde en trompet.
- ☐ B Han har en trompet.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ 1 Jeg var ti år. | ☐ A We had a cat. |
| ☐ 2 Har du børn? | ☐ B I am not married. |
| ☐ 3 Han havde en trompet. | ☐ C He had a trumpet. |
| ☐ 4 Vi havde en kat. | ☐ D I was ten years old. |
| ☐ 5 Lejligheden var min. | ☐ E Do you have children? |
| ☐ 6 Jeg er ikke gift. | ☐ F The flat was mine. |