

SCENE 20 • GRAMMAR

Olin, olid, oli

First steps into the past

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Photos on the wall

Estonian

Read & listen online



First steps into the past

The past tense describes an earlier time. Simple past **olema** is **olin**, **olid**, **oli**, **olime**, **olite**, **olid**. The verb has no distinction for the speaker's sex. The same **olid** serves familiar you and they.

Regular **-si-** past often uses **-sin**, **-sid**, **-s**, **-sime**, **-site**, **-sid**: **elasin**, **elasid**, **elas**, **elasime**, **elasite**, **elasid**. Learn early **Ma elasin siin**, **kui ma olin väike** for a childhood memory. Past negation uses **ei olnud**, the same for all persons; **polnud** is a contraction.

Person	olema	Meaning
mina	olin	I — was/were
sina	olid	you, familiar singular — was/were
tema	oli	he/she — was/were
meie	olime	we — was/were
teie	olite	you, plural/polite — was/were
nemad	olid	they — was/were

Ma olin väike.

I was little.

Sa olid siin.

You were here.

Ta oli siin.

He/she was here.

Me olime siin.

We were here.

Te olite siin.

You were here, polite/plural.

Nad olid siin.

They were here.

Mina olen Lena (Lukas). Te olite siin.

I am Lena. You were here, polite/plural.

Mina olen Lena (Lukas). Nad olid siin.

I am Lena. They were here.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN

Underline the form practised in this unit.

1 Ma olin väike.

Meaning: I was little.

2 Sa olid siin.

Meaning: You were here.

3 Ta oli siin.

Meaning: He/she was here.

4 Me olime siin.

Meaning: We were here.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM 1

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Ma _____ väike.

(A) olin

(B) olite

(C) olid

Meaning: I was little.

2 Sa _____ siin.

- ☐ A olid
- ☐ B olime
- ☐ C olin

Meaning: You were here.

3 Ta _____ siin.

- ☐ A olin
- ☐ B oli
- ☐ C olid

Meaning: He/she was here.

4 Me _____ siin.

- ☐ A olin
- ☐ B olite
- ☐ C olime

Meaning: We were here.

5 Te _____ siin.

- ☐ A olite
- ☐ B olid
- ☐ C olin

Meaning: You were here, polite/plural.

6 Nad _____ siin.

- ☐ A olid
- ☐ B olime
- ☐ C olin

Meaning: They were here.

7 Mina olen Lena. Te _____ siin.

- ☐ A olid
- ☐ B olin
- ☐ C olite

Meaning: I am Lena. You were here, polite/plural.

8 Mina olen Lena. Nad _____ siin.

- ☐ A olime
- ☐ B olin
- ☐ C olid

Meaning: I am Lena. They were here.

G3) USE THE FORM 1

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

oli olime olin olid

Ma _____ väike.

Meaning: I was little.

olid olin oli olime

Sa _____ siin.

Meaning: You were here.

oli olid olime olin

Ta _____ siin.

Meaning: He/she was here.

olime olid olin oli

Me _____ siin.

Meaning: We were here.

oli olin olite olid

Te _____ siin.

Meaning: You were here, polite/plural.

olin olime olid oli

Nad _____ siin.

Meaning: They were here.

olin olite olid oli

Mina olen Lena. Te _____ siin.

Meaning: I am Lena. You were here, polite/plural.

olid olime oli olin

Mina olen Lena. Nad _____ siin.

Meaning: I am Lena. They were here.

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

- 1 olin Ma väike.

Meaning: I was little.

- 2 siin. olid Sa

Meaning: You were here.

- 3 siin. Ta oli

Meaning: He/she was here.

- 4 olime Me siin.

Meaning: We were here.

5

Te

siin.

olite

Meaning: You were here, polite/plural.

6

siin.

Nad

olid

Meaning: They were here.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 I was little. You say:

(A) Ma olid väike.

(B) Ma olin väike.

2 You were here. You say:

(A) Sa olin siin.

(B) Sa olid siin.

3 He/she was here. You say:

- ☐ A Ta oli siin.
- ☐ B Ta olin siin.

4 We were here. You say:

- ☐ A Me olime siin.
- ☐ B Me olin siin.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

① Ma olin väike.

Ⓐ I am Lena. You were here,
polite/plural.

② Mina olen Lena. Te
olite siin.

Ⓑ You were here, polite/plural.

③ Sa olid siin.

Ⓒ We were here.

④ Te olite siin.

Ⓓ I am Lena. They were here.

⑤ Mina olen Lena.
Nad olid siin.

Ⓔ They were here.

⑥ Me olime siin.

Ⓕ I was little.

⑦ Ta oli siin.

Ⓖ You were here.

⑧ Nad olid siin.

Ⓗ He/she was here.