

SCENE 20 • GRAMMAR

sem bil, sem bila

First steps into the past

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Photos on the wall

Slovenian

Read & listen online



First steps into the past

Build the past tense with present **biti** plus an **-l** participle. A male speaker says **bil sem**, a female speaker **bila sem**. For another person use **Jure je bil**, **Maja je bila**, neuter **stanovanje je bilo**.

The short auxiliary normally follows the first phrase: **Včeraj sem bil doma**, **Jure je bil tukaj**. Starting directly with the participle is natural: **Bil sem doma**. Negation uses **nisem bil**, **nisem bila**. Begin with **biti**, then reuse the pattern with familiar verbs later.

Form	Example	Meaning
bil	Jure je bil tukaj.	Jure was here.
bila	Maja je bila tukaj.	Maja was here.
bilo	Stanovanje je bilo prazno.	The flat was empty.
je	Včeraj je bila Maja tukaj.	Maja was here yesterday.
bil	Včeraj sem bil doma.	I was at home yesterday.
bil	Nisem bil lačen.	I was not hungry.

Jure je bil tukaj.

Jure was here.

Maja je bila tukaj.

Maja was here.

Stanovanje je bilo prazno.

The flat was empty.

Včeraj je bila Maja tukaj.

Maja was here yesterday.

Včeraj sem bila (bil) doma.

I was at home yesterday.

Nisem bila lačna (bil lačen).

I was not hungry.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE PATTERNS

Underline the form described in this unit.

1 Jure je bil tukaj.

Meaning: Jure was here.

2 Maja je bila tukaj.

Meaning: Maja was here.

- 3 Stanovanje je bilo prazno.

Meaning: The flat was empty.

- 4 Včeraj je bila Maja tukaj.

Meaning: Maja was here yesterday.

- 5 Včeraj sem bila doma.

Meaning: I was at home yesterday.

- 6 Nisem bila lačna.

Meaning: I was not hungry.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Choose the right word for the gap.

- 1 Jure je _____ tukaj.

- ☐ A bil
- ☐ B bilo
- ☐ C bila

Meaning: Jure was here.

2 Maja je _____ tukaj.

- ☐ A bila
- ☐ B bilo
- ☐ C bil

Meaning: Maja was here.

3 Stanovanje je _____ prazno.

- ☐ A bil
- ☐ B bilo
- ☐ C bila

Meaning: The flat was empty.

4 Včeraj _____ bila Maja tukaj.

- ☐ A sem
- ☐ B si
- ☐ C je

Meaning: Maja was here yesterday.

5 Včeraj sem _____ doma.

- ☐ A bila
- ☐ B bili
- ☐ C bilo

Meaning: I was at home yesterday.

6 Nisem _____ lačna.

- ☐ A bila
- ☐ B bili
- ☐ C bilo

Meaning: I was not hungry.

G3) COMPLETE A SHORT MESSAGE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

bila bil

Jure je _____ tukaj.

Meaning: Jure was here.

bil bila

Maja je _____ tukaj.

Meaning: Maja was here.

bil bilo

Stanovanje je _____ prazno.

Meaning: The flat was empty.

sem je

Včeraj _____ bila Maja tukaj.

Meaning: Maja was here yesterday.

bilo bila

Včeraj sem _____ doma.

Meaning: I was at home yesterday.

bilo bila

Nisem _____ lačna.

Meaning: I was not hungry.

G4) BUILD USEFUL SENTENCES

Put the words in order.

1 je Jure bil tukaj.

Meaning: Jure was here.

2 je Maja bila tukaj.

Meaning: Maja was here.

3 je Stanovanje prazno. bilo

Meaning: The flat was empty.

4 tukaj. Maja bila Včeraj je

Meaning: Maja was here yesterday.

5 bila doma. Včeraj sem

Meaning: I was at home yesterday.

- 6 lačna. Nisem bila

Meaning: I was not hungry.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 Jure was here. You say:

- ☐ A Jure je bila tukaj.
- ☐ B Jure je bil tukaj.

2 Maja was here. You say:

- ☐ A Maja je bil tukaj.
- ☐ B Maja je bila tukaj.

3 The flat was empty. You say:

- ☐ A Stanovanje je bilo prazno.
- ☐ B Stanovanje je bil prazno.

4 Maja was here yesterday. You say:

- ☐ A Včeraj je bila Maja tukaj.
- ☐ B Včeraj sem bila Maja tukaj.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ 1 Jure je bil tukaj. | ☐ A The flat was empty. |
| ☐ 2 Nisem bila lačna. | ☐ B I was at home yesterday. |
| ☐ 3 Včeraj je bila Maja tukaj. | ☐ C Maja was here yesterday. |
| ☐ 4 Stanovanje je bilo prazno. | ☐ D Jure was here. |
| ☐ 5 Maja je bila tukaj. | ☐ E I was not hungry. |
| ☐ 6 Včeraj sem bila doma. | ☐ F Maja was here. |