

SCENE 20 • GRAMMAR

Früher war ich hier

Talk about earlier states with **war** and **hatte**

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Photos on the wall

German

Read & listen online



Now and earlier

Use **war** to describe how or where someone was, and **hatte** for what someone had. These are past-tense forms of **sein** and **haben**. In everyday German they are very common: **Früher war Jonas hier. Er hatte lange Haare.** The conjugated verb still goes second in a statement. These are simple past tense forms for earlier situations.

ALL PERSONS IN THE PAST

Person	Was or were	Had
ich	war	hatte
du	warst	hattest
er · sie · es	war	hatte
wir	waren	hatten
ihr	wart	hattet
sie · Sie	waren	hatten

Choose a state or possession

Früher means before or in earlier times. **Gestern** means yesterday. Use **war** with a description or location: **Ich war müde.** Use **hatte** with a thing or a familiar noun phrase: **Ich hatte einen Koffer, Ich hatte Hunger.** Negate normally: **Ich war nicht hier, Ich hatte keinen Schlüssel.**

Ask about the past

Questions keep the same pattern as the present: **Warst du hier?, Hattest du Hunger?, Wo war der Schlüssel?** Other completed actions will be taught with the perfect tense later. You do not need to memorise a separate simple-past paradigm for every verb here.

Früher war Jonas zehn Jahre alt.

Jonas used to be ten years old.

Wir hatten keine Stühle.

We had no chairs.

Heute ist Lotte zehn.

Lotte is ten today.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL FORMS

Underline the past-tense verb forms.

- 1 Ich war hier und hatte einen Koffer.

Meaning: I was here and had a suitcase.

- 2 Du warst müde. Ihr hattet keine Zeit.

Meaning: You were tired. You had no time (several people).

- 3 Wir waren im Café und hatten Hunger.

Meaning: We were in the café and were hungry.

- 4 Ihr wart oben. Du hattest den Schlüssel.

Meaning: You were upstairs (several people). You had the key.

G2) USE THE RIGHT PERSON IN THE PAST

Choose the right word for the gap.

- 1 Ich _____ gestern im Café.

- ☐ A war
- ☐ B wart
- ☐ C warst

Meaning: I was in the café yesterday.

2 Du _____ früher hier.

- ☐ A warst
- ☐ B waren
- ☐ C war

Meaning: You were here before.

3 Wir _____ müde.

- ☐ A wart
- ☐ B waren
- ☐ C warst

Meaning: We were tired.

4 Ihr _____ im Keller.

- ☐ A waren
- ☐ B warst
- ☐ C wart

Meaning: You were in the cellar (several people).

5 Ich _____ Hunger.

- ☐ A hatte
- ☐ B hattet
- ☐ C hattest

Meaning: I was hungry.

6 Du _____ eine rote Lampe.

- ☐ A hattest
- ☐ B hatten
- ☐ C hatte

Meaning: You had a red lamp.

7 Wir _____ keine Stühle.

- ☐ A hattest
- ☐ B hattet
- ☐ C hatten

Meaning: We had no chairs.

8 Ihr _____ viele Fotos.

- ☐ A hattest
- ☐ B hatten
- ☐ C hattet

Meaning: You had many photos (several people).

9 _____ Sie Lehrerin, Frau Brandt?

- ☐ A Wart
- ☐ B Waren
- ☐ C Warst

Meaning: Were you a teacher, Mrs Brandt?

G3) WAS IT A STATE OR SOMETHING SOMEONE HAD?

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Jonas _____ zehn Jahre alt.

- ☐ A war
- ☐ B hatte
- ☐ C hat

Meaning: Jonas was ten years old.

2 Hilde _____ einen Sohn und eine Tochter.

- ☐ A ist
- ☐ B war
- ☐ C hatte

Meaning: Hilde had a son and a daughter.

3 Die Wohnung _____ leer.

- ☐ A war
- ☐ B hatte
- ☐ C hat

Meaning: The flat was empty.

4 Ich hatte _____ Tisch.

- ☐ A kein
- ☐ B nicht
- ☐ C keinen

Meaning: I had no table.

G4) COMPLETE THE CONVERSATION

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

hattest war warst

Du _____ jung. Du _____ lange Haare.

Meaning: You were young. You had long hair.

hatten wart waren

Wir _____ im Café. Wir _____ Hunger.

Meaning: We were in the café. We were hungry.

waren hattet wart

Ihr _____ hier. Ihr _____ den Schlüssel.

Meaning: You were here (several people). You had the key.

war hatte ist

Jonas _____ zehn. Heute _____ er achtundzwanzig.

Meaning: Jonas was ten. Today he is twenty-eight.

hattet waren wart hatten

Sie _____ Lehrerin und _____ viele Kinder in der
Klasse.

Meaning: You were a teacher and had many children in the class
(polite).

G5) PUT THE MESSAGE TOGETHER

Put the words in order.

- 1 war Wohnung die leer. Früher

Meaning: The flat used to be empty.

- 2 Tisch. keinen hatte Ich

Meaning: I had no table.

- 3 lange Haare? du Hattest

Meaning: Did you have long hair?

- 4 waren Wo Stühle? die

Meaning: Where were the chairs?

G6) RESPOND TO THE SITUATION

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 Jonas says the flat used to be his. You check whether he lived there as a child. You say:**
 - ☐ A Wohnst du jetzt hier?
 - ☐ B Warst du hier als Kind?
 - ☐ C Hast du Hunger?

- 2 A friend sees your furnished kitchen and asks about your first day in the flat. You had no table then. You say:**
 - ☐ A Ich hatte keinen Tisch.
 - ☐ B Ich habe einen Tisch.
 - ☐ C Die Tasse ist grün.