

SCENE 20 • GRAMMAR

Byl a byla

Talking about an earlier state

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Photos on the wall

Czech

Read & listen online



Past tense: Past forms agree with the subject's gender and number.

Talking about an earlier state

For early descriptions of photos, learn **byl/byla/bylo: Jan byl malý, Marie byla mladá, město bylo malé.** In the third person there is no extra present auxiliary.

For yourself use **byl jsem** for a man or **byla jsem** for a woman. Familiar you is **byl/byla jsi**. Polite you uses **byl/byla jste**: the auxiliary is plural but the participle agrees with the one person. Full past tense is taught again before longer past stories.

Czech	Meaning
Jan byl malý.	Jan was little.
Marie byla mladá.	Marie was young.
Město bylo malé.	The town was small.
Byl jsem doma.	I was at home.

Jan byl malý.

Jan was little.

Marie byla mladá.

Marie was young.

Město bylo malé.

The town was small.

Byla (Byl) jsem doma.

I was at home.

GRAMMAR

G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN

Underline the form practised in this unit.

1 Jan byl malý.

Meaning: Jan was little.

2 Marie byla mladá.

Meaning: Marie was young.

3 Město bylo malé.

Meaning: The town was small.

4 Byla jsem doma.

Meaning: I was at home.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM

Use the English meaning and the pattern in this unit.

1 Jan _____ malý.

- ☐ A byl
- ☐ B bylo
- ☐ C byla

Meaning: Jan was little.

2 Marie _____ mladá.

- ☐ A byla
- ☐ B bylo
- ☐ C byl

Meaning: Marie was young.

3 Město _____ malé.

- ☐ A byl
- ☐ B bylo
- ☐ C byla

Meaning: The town was small.

4 _____ jsem doma.

- ☐ A Byli
- ☐ B Byly
- ☐ C Byla

Meaning: I was at home.

G3) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

byla byl

Jan _____ malý.

Meaning: Jan was little.

byl byla

Marie _____ mladá.

Meaning: Marie was young.

byl bylo

Město _____ malé.

Meaning: The town was small.

Byli Byla

_____ jsem doma.

Meaning: I was at home.

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

- 1 byl Jan malý.

Meaning: Jan was little.

- 2 mladá. byla Marie

Meaning: Marie was young.

- 3 malé. Město bylo

Meaning: The town was small.

- 4 jsem Byla doma.

Meaning: I was at home.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 Jan was little. You say:

- ☐ A Jan byla malý.
- ☐ B Jan byl malý.

2 Marie was young. You say:

- ☐ A Marie byl mladá.
- ☐ B Marie byla mladá.

3 The town was small. You say:

- ☐ A Město bylo malé.
- ☐ B Město byl malé.

4 I was at home. You say:

- ☐ A Byla jsem doma.
- ☐ B Byli jsem doma.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ① Jan byl malý. | ④ I was at home. |
| ② Byla jsem doma. | ⑤ The town was small. |
| ③ Marie byla mladá. | ⑥ Jan was little. |
| ④ Město bylo malé. | ⑦ Marie was young. |