

Lesson C / well , actually

Conversation strategy Correcting things you say

A Can you think of possible ways to complete these replies?

A How old were you when you moved here? B I was seven. **Actually**, no, I was _____.

A Who took you to school on your first day? B My dad. No, wait, my _____ took me.

Now listen. What does Thomas remember about his first day of school?

Thomas Look at these old photos. My uncle sent them to me.

Ali Oh, is this you?

Thomas Yeah, with my best friend. We were in kindergarten together.

Ali Oh. Do you remember much about kindergarten?

Thomas Not really. **Well**, I remember my first day of school. **Actually**, I don't remember the day, but I remember on the way home I missed my bus stop.

Ali Oh, no!

Thomas Yeah. And I kept riding around until I was the last kid on the bus.

Ali So how did you get home?

Thomas **Well**, the teacher, I mean, the bus driver had to call and find out my address and everything, and he took me home.

Ali So that was when you were five?

Thomas Yeah. Uh . . . no, wait. . . . I was only four. I started school early.

Notice how Thomas corrects the things he says with expressions like these: *Well; Actually; No, wait*. Find examples in the conversation.

"No, wait. . . I was only four."

1. I don't remember anything about my childhood. e
2. I started gymnastics when I was five. d
3. I hated swimming lessons. b
4. I lived with my grandparents for a year. f
5. I played piano until I was ten. a
6. All my friends were very nice. c

- a. Actually, no, I was 11 when I quit.
- b. Well, they were OK, but I was always scared.
- c. Well, most of them, not all of them.
- d. No, wait. I was six.
- e. Well, actually, I remember a few things.
- f. No, wait. Actually, it was two years.

Well
Actually
No, wait

You can use **I mean** to correct yourself when you say the wrong word or name. This is just one use of **I mean**.

Words that provide a signal to listener that the speaker is about to clarify or correct some misinformation.

Well, the teacher, I mean, the bus driver, had to . . .

A Complete the questions by correcting the underlined words. Use the words on the right.

When you were a child, . . .

1. Did you read a lot of cartoons, I mean, comic books?
2. Did you have a motorbike, I mean, a _____?
3. How often did you visit your parents, I mean, your _____?
4. Did you go skiing in the winter, I mean, _____?
5. Were you afraid of cats, I mean, _____?
6. Did you have an imaginary classmate, I mean, _____?
7. Did you collect animals, I mean, _____?
8. Were you good at playing chess, I mean, _____?

7 stuffed animals
8 basketball
6 friend
2 mountain bike
4 skating
✓ comic books
5 horses
3 grandparents

Linking Ideas

•Except (for) - apart from

We agreed on most things. We didn't agree on soccer teams

We agreed on most things **except for** soccer teams.

We didn't argue much. Still, we argued about soccer

We didn't argue much **apart from** soccer.

Complete the conversations with the sentences in the box.

Actually, no, it was 2006.	Well, no, I guess I spent some weekends with my grandparents.
Well, at least most of them didn't.	Well, not perfect, actually. We didn't like elementary school!
No, wait. I was nine.	✓ Well, not all of them. Josie speaks three languages.
Well, actually, it was dark brown.	No, wait. . . . Her name was Mrs. Santos.
Actually, no, I was 18 when I left.	

1. A All my friends are bilingual. They all speak two languages.

Well, not all of them. Josie speaks three languages.

B That's amazing!

2. A My best friend and I played soccer every weekend when we were kids.

Well, no, I guess I spent some weekends with my grandparents.

B That sounds like fun.

3. A We moved to Rio de Janeiro when I was ten.

No, wait. I was nine.

B So you were pretty young.

4. A I was on a swimming team until I was 16.

Actually, no, I was 18 when I left.

B That's the reason you swim so well.

5. A My brother and I had a perfect childhood.
Well, not perfect, actually. We didn't like elementary school! _____
B Really? But you were generally pretty happy, right?
6. A My cousin lived with us for a year – in 2007, I think.
Actually, no, it was 2006. _____
B That was your cousin Jack, right?
7. A My favorite teacher in elementary school was Mrs. Santana.
No, wait. . . . Her name was Mrs. Santos. _____
B Oh, yeah? My favorite teacher was Mrs. Stiller.
8. A When I was little, none of my friends had horses.
Well, at least most of them didn't. _____
B But you had a horse, right?
9. A I had black hair when I was born. _____
Well, actually, it was dark brown. _____
B Really? I was born with no hair at all!

Simple Past: Past of be

Affirmative and Negative Statements			
subject	Be	(not)	
I	was	not	happy in London.
You We They	were		at university.
He She It	was		in the garden.

•You can contract negative statements:

was : wasn't **were** : weren't

Simple Past

•The simple past describes completed actions in the past.



•Yesterday, I **played** basketball with my friends

•My father and I **watched** a match last weekend.

Signal words

yesterday
last week
a month ago
in 2002
2 minutes ago
the other day

- The train **stopped** at the station.
- Ahmad **took** a Spanish class last week.
- Sarah **stayed** home and **studied** for the test.

Spelling of simple past verbs

- Add **-ed** after most verbs:

trave**l**ed – walk**e**d – talk**e**d – help**e**d – answer**e**d

- Add **-d** after verbs that end in **-e**:

welcom**e**d – improv**e**d – sav**e**d – lik**e**d – lov**e**d

If a one-syllable verb ends in vowel + consonant double the consonant and add -ed:

shop : shopp**e**d – plan : plann**e**d – stop : stop**p**ed

If the verb ends in a consonant + -y, change the y to i and add -ed

study : studi**e**d – try : tri**e**d – hurry : hurri**e**d

If the verb ends in a vowel + y, add -ed:

play : play**e**d – stay : stay**e**d

Simple Past :

	Infinitive	Simple Past
1.	meet	met
2.	drive	drove
3.	speak	spoke
4.	put	put
5.	write	wrote
6.	sing	sang
7.	do	did
8.	sit	sat
9.	stand	stood
10.	run	ran

Choose "Was" or "Were":

- The teacher was nice.
- The students were very clever.
- But one of the students was in trouble.
- We were sorry for him.
- He was nice though.

Write sentences in simple past.

- Janet / miss / the bus → **Janet missed the bus.**
- she / study / her room → **She studied in her room**
- Nancy / watch / not / television → **Nancy didn't watch television**
- she / read / a book → **She read a book**

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
He wrote a book.	He didn't write a book	Did he write a book?
He sang	He did not sing	Did he sing?
She was pretty	She wasn't pretty	Was she pretty?

Put the sentences into simple past.

- We move to a new house. → **We moved to a new house**
They bring food. → **They brought food**
He doesn't do the homework. → **He didn't do the homework**
They sell cars. → **They sold cars.**
Does he visit his friends? → **Did he visit his friends?**

Time expressions:

1. For

Did you live there **for a long time**?

2. Until { up to a specific point in time.}

e.g. We lived here **until 1992/ February**.

3. From _____ to _____ {two points of time}

e.g. I stayed in Riyadh **from March to September**.

4. ago {time expression + ago}

e.g. My family moved to the UK **ten years ago**.

5. Then: (and then)

e.g. We lived in Brazil. **Then** we moved to the U.S.

e.g. We lived in Brazil, **and then** we moved to the U.S.

6. When: {conjunction} + clause with a specific point in time.

e.g. We left **when I was six**

General Statement

• General Statement

{Determiner + noun}

All, most, A lot of, some, a few, no + plural noun

All people like nature.

Most Canadians speak English.

A lot of people don't like math.

A few people get scholarships.

No students like exams.

Note: No can also be followed by a singular noun

No student like exams

Determiners

• Specific Statement

{Determiner + of + determiner + noun}

All (of), most of, A lot of, some of, a few of, none of + of + other determiner + plural noun

None of my friends go to the library after school.

Most of the people that I know stay up late.

A lot of the students in my class don't like math.

A few of the students in my school get full marks.

Other determiners

the
my
you
this
that
us
them

Note: All can be used with or without of before determiner + noun

All of my friends hate waking up early.

All my friends hate waking up early.

Building Vocabulary

