

1 Read the text quickly and match headings a–f to paragraphs 1–5. There is one heading you don't need.

- a Old and new
- b Special celebrations
- c Festival city
- d The King's lawyer
- e A city with a past
- f City of castles

2 Read the text and answer the questions.

- 1 How many people live in Edinburgh?
- 2 How old is the castle?
- 3 Where does George Mackenzie's ghost walk?
- 4 When is Hogmanay?
- 5 What type of festivals does Edinburgh have in summer?

## Edinburgh: A colourful city

### 1 *Old and new*

Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland. Four hundred and fifty thousand people live there, and because it's in the North the skies are often grey. But Edinburgh itself is a colourful city – it mixes modern and medieval, the traditional and the new. It's famous for its international festivals and unusual local culture.

### 2 \_\_\_\_\_

When you arrive, the first thing you see is Edinburgh Castle, on a hill, high above the city. Hundreds of millions of years ago, the hills in Edinburgh were volcanoes. Today, the volcanoes are quiet. Over one million people visit the castle every year. Part of it is a thousand years old. Edinburgh Castle is not the only castle in Edinburgh. In fact there are many old castles and old houses.

### 3 \_\_\_\_\_

It's not surprising that the old city has hundreds of ghosts<sup>1</sup>. Some are famous. One is the ghost of George Mackenzie. People often feel cold and hear strange noises near his grave<sup>2</sup>. Mackenzie was King Charles II's lawyer, in the seventeenth century. He wasn't a good man. He killed a lot of people. People think his unhappy ghost walks in the graveyard of Greyfriars' church.

### 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Edinburgh is a great place for a party. From 29 December – 1 January Edinburgh has a New Year festival called Hogmanay. Four hundred thousand people from all over the world go to the party. There are fireworks, concerts, and a huge street party with dancing in the street!

### 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Every summer there are arts festivals in the city. They include jazz, book, cinema festivals and, of course, the famous International and Fringe Theatre Festivals. At these two festivals and you can see everything from circuses to ballets and from comedy shows to Shakespeare plays. In 2003, there were over 500 different shows and many of them were free!

<sup>1</sup> ghost = the spirit of a dead person

<sup>2</sup> grave = place where a dead person is buried in the ground



### Talking about your country

- 1 Which castles are famous in your country? Where are they? How old are they?
- 2 What festivals are there in your country? Where are they? What do people do there?

## Past simple to be

- 1 Look at the sentences and complete the table below.  
Mackenzie **was** the King's lawyer. He **wasn't** a good man.  
Many shows **were** free.

affirmative	negative
I <b>was</b> in Edinburgh. You _____ at the castle. He / She / It <b>was</b> at the festival. We / They _____ on the hill.	I <b>wasn't</b> in London. You <b>weren't</b> in Greyfriars. He / She / It _____ on a tour. We / They <b>weren't</b> in town.
question	short answers
Was I in Edinburgh? _____ you in Greyfriars? _____ he / she / it on a tour? Were we / they on the hill?	Yes, I was. No, I wasn't. Yes, you were. No you weren't. Yes, he / she / it was. No, he / she / it wasn't. Yes, we / they were. No, we / they weren't.

- 2 Complete the sentences with the past tense of the verb to be.

- They \_\_\_\_\_ excited about their holiday in Edinburgh.
- \_\_\_\_\_ he at the station to meet you?
- I \_\_\_\_\_ surprised by the bad weather. It often rains in Scotland.
- How many people \_\_\_\_\_ at the festival?
- We \_\_\_\_\_ late for the concert. We were on time.
- Where \_\_\_\_\_ you last night?

## there was / there were

- 3 Look at examples a and b below. Then choose the correct alternative in sentences 1–5.

- a Last year **there were** 500 different shows.  
b Last night **there was** a street party in the city.


### Example

*There were / There was* lots of shows at the festival.

- Were there / Was there* fireworks at the street party?  
Yes, *there were / there was*.
- There weren't / There wasn't* time to see the concert.
- Were there / Was there* a message for me on the phone?  
Yes, *there were / there was*.
- There were / There was* snow last New Year's Eve.
- Were there / Was there* any ghosts in the graveyard?  
No, *there weren't / there wasn't*.

 2.8 Listen and check. Repeat the sentences.

- 4 Look at this picture of Edinburgh in 1910 and complete the text with *was / wasn't* or *were / weren't*.



Edinburgh <sup>0</sup> **was** very different in 1910. There <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ many cars and there <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ so much pollution. There <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of little shops, but there <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ any supermarkets. There <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ any fast food restaurants, either. In most houses there <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ electric lights, but there <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a TV set. There <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ cinemas and theatres in the town so people went out for entertainment.

## Let's activate

- 5 Describe your town 50 years ago. Use the ideas below to help you.

### Examples

*There weren't any cars.*  
*The people were friendly.*

- cars
- people
- electricity
- fast food
- pollution
- shops / supermarkets
- TV / cinema