

## Lesson Thirty-eight

### Were

Strong form: wɜ:ː<sup>r</sup>; weak form: wə<sup>r</sup>

The strong form is used for emphasis (e.g. ‘You **were** a long time’) and for contrast (e.g. ‘what they **were** and what they might have been’). The weak form is used elsewhere, / wə / before consonants (e.g. ‘The papers **were** late’ / ðə 'peɪpəz wə 'leɪt /), / wər / before vowels (e.g. ‘The questions **were** easy’ / ðə 'kwɛstʃənz wər 'i: zɪ /).