

The Verb "To Be": Past Simple (All Forms)

A1 English Worksheet – Lesson 11: was/were, wasn't/weren't, and questions

Language Focus

The verb be has two past forms: was and were. We use them to talk about people, places, and situations in the past.

Affirmative	I/he/she/it: was; you/we/they: were	<i>I was tired. They were happy.</i>
Negative	wasn't / weren't	<i>She wasn't ready. We weren't late.</i>
Yes/No Question	Was...? / Were...?	<i>Was he at home? Were you busy?</i>
Short Answer	Yes/No + subject + was/were(n't)	<i>Yes, he was. No, they weren't.</i>
Wh- Question	Wh-word + was/were...?	<i>Where were you? Why was she late?</i>

Remember: "was" and "were" follow the same pattern as "is" and "are" – "was" goes with singular subjects (I, he, she, it) and "were" goes with plural subjects (you, we, they).

Listening: A Trip Down Memory Lane

Context: remembering childhood

Listen to your teacher read this aloud, or read it yourself. Then complete Exercise 1.

When I was young, my family was very close.

My brother was always the funny one.

My sister and I were best friends growing up.

We weren't rich, but we were happy.

Our house wasn't big, but it was cosy.

My parents were hardworking, and they were always there for us.

1. True or False

Context: A Trip Down Memory Lane (from the listening)

1. The speaker's family was close. True / False
2. The brother was serious all the time. True / False
3. The house was big. True / False
4. The parents were hardworking. True / False
5. The family was rich. True / False

2. Multiple Choice

Context: a school reunion

1. The classroom ____ full of memories.
was / were
2. The teachers ____ strict but fair.
was / were
3. I ____ nervous on the first day.
was / were
4. My best friends ____ in my class.
was / were
5. The exams ____ difficult.
was / were
6. Our school trip ____ amazing.
was / were

3. Matching

Context: everyday memories

Draw a line to match each subject to the correct sentence ending.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. The weather | <i>was happy with her results.</i> |
| 2. My grandparents | <i>were born in Italy.</i> |
| 3. I | <i>wasn't ready for the test.</i> |
| 4. The kids | <i>weren't tired after the game.</i> |
| 5. She | <i>wasn't great yesterday.</i> |

4. Gap Fill

Context: a diary entry

Complete the diary entry with was, were, wasn't, or weren't.

Yesterday _____ a strange day. I _____ hungry at breakfast. My friends _____ already at school when I arrived. The lesson _____ interesting, so I _____ bored. My classmates _____ paying attention either.

5. Was/Were Sort

Sort these subjects into the correct group: I, He, She, It, My friend, The movie, You, We, They, My parents, The tickets

was:

were:

6. Word Order

Context: questions about the past

Put the words in the correct order to make a question.

1. the / Was / film / good?
2. you / Were / at / the / party?
3. were / Where / you / yesterday?
4. she / Was / happy / with / the / news?
5. were / Why / they / late?

7. Right or Wrong?

Context: a history quiz

Is the past form right or wrong? Circle your answer. If it's wrong, write the correct form.

1. The Romans was powerful. Right / Wrong: _____
2. The war were long. Right / Wrong: _____
3. The soldiers weren't ready. Right / Wrong: _____
4. She wasn't a queen. Right / Wrong: _____
5. The castles was old. Right / Wrong: _____

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A1 Teacher Answer Key – Lesson 11

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1. True or False - Answers

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. The speaker's family was close. | True |
| 2. The brother was serious all the time. | False |
| 3. The house was big. | False |
| 4. The parents were hardworking. | True |
| 5. The family was rich. | False |

2. Multiple Choice - Answers

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. The classroom ___ full of memories. | was |
| 2. The teachers ___ strict but fair. | were |
| 3. I ___ nervous on the first day. | was |
| 4. My best friends ___ in my class. | were |
| 5. The exams ___ difficult. | were |
| 6. Our school trip ___ amazing. | was |

3. Matching - Answers

1. The weather **wasn't great yesterday.**
2. My grandparents **were born in Italy.**
3. I **wasn't ready for the test.**
4. The kids **weren't tired after the game.**
5. She **was happy with her results.**

4. Gap Fill - Answers (in order)

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| 1. Blank 1 | was |
| 2. Blank 2 | wasn't |
| 3. Blank 3 | were |
| 4. Blank 4 | wasn't |
| 5. Blank 5 | was |
| 6. Blank 6 | weren't |

5. Was/Were Sort - Answers

was:

I, He, She, It, My friend, The movie

were:

You, We, They, My parents, The tickets

6. Word Order - Answers

1. Was the film good?
2. Were you at the party?
3. Where were you yesterday?
4. Was she happy with the news?
5. Why were they late?

7. Right or Wrong? - Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The Romans was powerful. | Wrong - were |
| 2. The war were long. | Wrong - was |
| 3. The soldiers weren't ready. | Right |
| 4. She wasn't a queen. | Right |
| 5. The castles was old. | Wrong - were |