

The Verb "To Be": Past Simple (Practice 2)

A1 English Worksheet – Lesson 12: More Practice with was/were

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 Weekend at the Beach

Context: talking about a weekend trip

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

Last weekend was amazing. The weather was perfect for the beach.

My friends were all there with me.

We weren't in a hurry, so we relaxed all day.

The water wasn't too cold.

My sister was a bit sunburnt by the evening.

It was one of the best weekends this summer.

1. True or False

Context: A Weekend at the Beach (from the listening)

1. The weather was perfect. True / False
2. The friends were busy with other plans. True / False
3. They were in a hurry. True / False
4. The water was too cold. True / False
5. The sister was sunburnt. True / False

2. Multiple Choice

Context: a music festival

1. The tickets ___ expensive.
was / were
2. The headline band ___ incredible.
was / were
3. I ___ close to the stage.
was / were
4. The crowds ___ huge.
was / were
5. The weather ___ perfect all weekend.
was / were
6. My friends ___ excited to be there.
was / were

3. Matching

Context: work and daily life

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

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. The museum | <i>wasn't late for the meeting.</i> |
| 2. My colleagues | <i>was proud of his achievement.</i> |
| 3. I | <i>wasn't open on Mondays.</i> |
| 4. The instructions | <i>weren't clear at all.</i> |
| 5. He | <i>were friendly to the new intern.</i> |

4. Gap Fill

Context: a restaurant review

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

The restaurant _____ busy on Friday night. The service _____ very fast. The waiters _____ polite though. The food _____ bad, but it _____ a bit expensive. The desserts _____ worth the price.

5. Was/Were Sort

Sort these subjects into the correct group: I, He, She, It, My cousin, The concert, You, We, They, The tickets, The seats

was:

were:

6. Word Order

Context: questions about a festival

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

1. the / Was / concert / loud?
2. the / Were / seats / comfortable?
3. was / Where / the / festival / held?
4. were / Why / you / late / for / the / show?
5. she / Was / impressed / by / the / band?

7. Right or Wrong?

Context: a travel blog

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

1. The flights was cheap. Right / Wrong: _____
2. The hotel were comfortable. Right / Wrong: _____
3. The staff weren't very helpful. Right / Wrong: _____
4. It wasn't a long trip. Right / Wrong: _____
5. The beaches was beautiful. Right / Wrong: _____

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A1 Teacher Answer Key – Lesson 12

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1. True or False - Answers

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. The weather was perfect. | True |
| 2. The friends were busy with other plans. | False |
| 3. They were in a hurry. | False |
| 4. The water was too cold. | False |
| 5. The sister was sunburnt. | True |

2. Multiple Choice - Answers

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. The tickets ___ expensive. | were |
| 2. The headline band ___ incredible. | was |
| 3. I ___ close to the stage. | was |
| 4. The crowds ___ huge. | were |
| 5. The weather ___ perfect all weekend. | was |
| 6. My friends ___ excited to be there. | were |

3. Matching - Answers

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. The museum | wasn't open on Mondays. |
| 2. My colleagues | were friendly to the new intern. |
| 3. I | wasn't late for the meeting. |
| 4. The instructions | weren't clear at all. |
| 5. He | was proud of his achievement. |

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 cousin, The concert

were:

You, We, They, The tickets, The seats

6. Word Order - Answers

1. Was the concert loud?
2. Were the seats comfortable?
3. Where was the festival held?
4. Why were you late for the show?
5. Was she impressed by the band?

7. Right or Wrong? - Answers

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The flights was cheap. | Wrong - were |
| 2. The hotel were comfortable. | Wrong - was |
| 3. The staff weren't very helpful. | Right |
| 4. It wasn't a long trip. | Right |
| 5. The beaches was beautiful. | Wrong - were |