



Verb “Be” in Past Tense

Grammar > Intermediate 4



Exercise 1 – Learning

'Be' in the past tense

1. The verb '**be**' in present tense has three forms: '**am**', '**are**', and '**is**'.
2. The verb '**be**' in past tense only has two forms: '**was**' and '**were**'.
 - am/is → **was**
 - are → **were**

Negative form

Use “**was not (wasn't)**” or “**were not (weren't)**” when you want to form a negative sentence in the past tense.

Interrogative form

Use “**Was**” or “**Were**” at the beginning of the sentence when you want to form a question in the past tense.



First and Second person

- **Were** you a teacher?
- I **was** a student.
- I **was not** a teacher.
- **Were** you teachers?
- We **were** students.
- We **were not** teachers.

Third person

- **Was** he a doctor?
- He **was not** a doctor.
- He **was** a dentist.
- **Was** it a bird?
- It **was not** a bird.
- It **was** a bee.



More examples:

Be + Adjectives

- I **was** alone.
- **Were** you alone?

Be + Prepositional Phrases

- **Were** they at work?
- They **were not** at work.

Be + Nouns

- We **were** kids.
- He **was** my friend.



Exercise 2 – Multiple Choice

Choose the correct answers to complete the sentences.

1. He_____ very angry yesterday.

- a) were
- b) was

2. She_____ not happy to see you.

- a) were
- b) was

3. It_____ here five minutes ago.

- a) were
- b) was

4. They _____ in the kitchen at noon.

- a) were
- b) was



5. _____ I there last week?

- a) Were
- b) Was

6. _____ you not at work yesterday?

- a) Were
- b) Was

7. _____ they at school?

- a) Were
- b) Was

8. _____ Peter smart?

- a) Were
- b) Was



Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Use what you learned in class to make negative and interrogative sentences in the past tense.

Example: We, here, five years ago. → We weren't here five years ago./Were we here five years ago?

Content:

1. She, with Peter, always.
2. They, your friends, before.
3. He, in Serbia, last year.
4. I, at the theater, last night.
5. This road, a river, twenty years ago.
6. Lisa, in a restaurant, yesterday.