

VERB BE IN PAST

WAS- WERE

last night



now



Now Robert **is** at work.

At midnight last night
he **wasn't** at work.

He **was** in bed.
He **was** asleep.

am/is (present) → **was** (past):

- ☐ I **am** tired. (now)
- ☐ Where **is** Kate? (now)
- ☐ The weather **is** good today.

I **was** tired **last night**.

Where **was** Kate **yesterday**?

The weather **was** good **last week**.

are (present) → **were** (past):

- ☐ You **are** late. (now)
- ☐ They **aren't** here. (now)

You **were** late **yesterday**.

They **weren't** here **last Sunday**.

positive

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| I he she it | was |
| we you they | were |

negative

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| I he she it | was not (wasn't) |
| we you they | were not (weren't) |

question

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| was | I? he? she? it? |
| were | we? you? they? |

- ☐ Last year Rachel **was** 22, so she **is** 23 now.
- ☐ When I **was** a child, I **was** afraid of dogs.
- ☐ We **were** hungry after the journey, but we **weren't** tired.
- ☐ The hotel **was** comfortable, but it **wasn't** expensive.
- ☐ **Was** the weather nice when you **were** on holiday?
- ☐ Your shoes are nice. **Were** they expensive?
- ☐ Why **were** you late this morning?

Short answers

| | |
|------|--------------------------|
| Yes, | I/he/she/it was. |
| | we/you/they were. |

| | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| No, | I/he/she/it wasn't. |
| | we/you/they weren't. |

- ☐ 'Were you late?' 'No, I wasn't.'
- ☐ 'Was Ted at work yesterday?' 'Yes, he was.'
- ☐ 'Were Sue and Steve at the party?' 'No, they weren't.'

Write am/is/are (present) or was/were (past).

- 1 Last year she **was** 22, so she **is** 23 now.
- 2 Today the weather nice, but yesterday it very cold.
- 3 I hungry. Can I have something to eat?
- 4 I feel fine this morning, but I very tired last night.
- 5 Where you at 11 o'clock last Friday morning?
- 6 Don't buy those shoes. They very expensive.
- 7 I like your new jacket. it expensive?
- 8 This time last year I in Paris.
- 9 'Where the children?' 'I don't know. They here a few minutes ago.'

Write was/were or wasn't/weren't.

- 1 We weren't happy with the hotel. Our room **was** very small and it **wasn't** clean.
- 2 Mark at work last week because he ill. He's better now.
- 3 Yesterday a public holiday, so the banks closed. They're open today.
- 4 '..... Kate and Bill at the party?' 'Kate there, but Bill '
- 5 'Where are my keys?' 'I don't know. They on the table, but they're not there now.'
- 6 You at home last night. Where you?

A. Put the correct form of the verb “to be” (was/were) in the past tense in the following sentences.

1. Judy _____ sick yesterday.
2. We _____ in the same class last year.
3. I _____ tired after a long day at work.
4. The weather _____ beautiful yesterday.
5. Last semester my teachers _____ very good.
6. The children _____ hungry after so much exercise.
7. The wind _____ very strong last night.
8. She _____ very happy last week.
9. They _____ nervous on the first day of school.
10. Luckily, the windows _____ closed during the rain storm.
11. We _____ very happy to get your letter last week.
12. The boys _____ tired after the ball game.

B. Put the correct negative form of the verb “to be” (wasn’t/ weren’t) in the following sentences.

1. They _____ at school yesterday because it was Saturday.
2. He _____ hungry at supper time because he ate a big lunch.
3. Carol _____ happy to see her boyfriend with another girl.
4. Bonnie _____ at home last night when I called her.
5. The teacher _____ satisfied with the student’s work.

Write questions from these words + was/were. Put the words in the right order.

1 (late / you / this morning / why?)

Why were you late this morning?

2 (difficult / your exam?)

3 (last week / where / Sue and Chris?)

4 (your new camera / how much?)

5 (angry / you / yesterday / why?)

6 (nice / the weather / last week?)

→ The traffic was bad.

→ No, it was easy.

→ They were on holiday.

→ Sixty pounds.

→ Because you were late.

→ Yes, it was beautiful.

there was / there were (*past*)



There is a train every hour.

The time now is 11.15.

There was a train at 11 o'clock.

Compare:

there is/are (*present*)

- ☐ **There is** a good film on TV tonight.
- ☐ We are staying at a very big hotel.
There are 550 rooms.
- ☐ **Are there** any phone messages for me this morning?
- ☐ I'm hungry, but **there isn't** anything to eat.

there was/were (*past*)

- ☐ **There was** a good film on TV last night.
- ☐ We stayed at a very big hotel.
There were 550 rooms.
- ☐ **Were there** any phone messages for me yesterday?
- ☐ I was hungry when I got home, but **there wasn't** anything to eat.

Write there was / there wasn't / was there or there were / there weren't / were there.

- 1 I was hungry, but there wasn't anything to eat.
- 2 Were there any phone messages for me yesterday?
- 3 I opened the envelope, but it was empty. nothing in it.
- 4 'We stayed at a very nice hotel.' 'Really? a swimming pool?'
- 5 'Did you buy any eggs?' 'No, any in the shop.'
- 6 The wallet was empty. any money in it.
- 7 '..... many people at the meeting?' 'No, very few.'
- 8 We didn't visit the museum. enough time.
- 9 I'm sorry I'm late. a lot of traffic.
- 10 Twenty years ago many tourists here. Now there are a lot.