was, were

Affirmative	Negative
I was brave.	I wasn't scared.
He / She / It was right.	He / She / It wasn't wrong.
You / We / They were rich.	You / We / They weren't poor.

The past simple affirmative form of the verb *be* is *was* or *were*.

The trip was good. We were in the museum.

The past simple negative form is *was not* or *were not*. We usually use the short forms *wasn't* or *weren't*.

Life wasn't easy in the past. The tunnels weren't big.

Questions	Short answers	
	Affirmative	Negative
Was I scared?	Yes, I was.	No, I wasn't.
Was he / she / it in the tunnel?	Yes, he / she / it was.	No, he / she / it wasn't.
Were you / we / they with the teacher?	Yes, you / we / they were.	No, you / we / they weren't.

We make the question form with *was* or *were* plus subject.

Was the tour good? Were you in the castle?

Question words go at the beginning of questions.

Who was your guide on the trip?

We make short answers with subject plus *was, were, wasn't* or *weren't*.

Was Richard in Paris last month? No, he wasn't.
Were they interested in the tunnels? Yes, they were.

there was, there were

	Singular	Plural
Affirmative	There was a very dark tunnel.	There were a lot of visitors at the castle.
Negative	There wasn't a light in the tunnel.	There weren't any ghosts in the old building.

There was and *there were* are the past simple forms of *there is* and *there are. There wasn't* and *there weren't* are the negative forms.

There was a lovely café at the museum.

There weren't any good books about the tunnels.

We make the question form by inverting *was / were* and *there*.

Was there any information? ~~There was any information?~~

Usage

We use *there was* and *there were* to describe what existed in the past.

Past simple: affirmative, negative and questions, regular and irregular verbs

Affirmative	Negative
I / You / He / She / It / We / They visited Paris.	I / You / He / She / It / We / They didn't visit Paris.
Questions	
Did I / you / he / she / it / we / they study the book about time travel?	
Short answers	
Affirmative	**Negative**
Yes, I / you / he / she / it / we / they did.	No, I / you / he / she / it / we / they didn't.

The past simple has only got one form.

I went to Paris. You went to Istanbul. She went to Cairo.

We make the affirmative form of past simple regular verbs by adding *-ed* to the base form of the verb.

My brother helped me with my homework last night.

Note the spelling rules for regular verbs:

Most verbs	add *-ed* look → looked play → played
Verbs ending in -e	add *-d* arrive → arrived live → lived
Verbs ending in vowel + single consonant	double the consonant and add *-ed* stop → stopped travel → travelled

We make the negative form with *did not* plus base form of the verb. We usually use the short form *didn't*.

They didn't lose that important football match.

We make the question form with *did* plus base form.

Did you talk to the teacher after school?

Question words go at the beginning of questions.

What did you watch on TV last night?

We make short answers with subject plus *did* or *didn't*.

Did you like the school trip? Yes, I did.

Usage

We use the past simple to talk about finished actions in the past and actions which happened at a specific time. We often use specific time references with the past simple such as *yesterday, last week, on Thursday, in 2014, two days ago.*

He watched a film about time travel yesterday.