

17 was, were: Past Simple tense of verb to be**FORM**

Positive	Negative		Question
	Long	Short	
I was	I was not	I wasn't	Was I ... ?
You were	You were not	You weren't	Were you ... ?
She was	She was not	She wasn't	Was she ... ?
He was	He was not	He wasn't	Was he ... ?
It was	It was not	It wasn't	Was it ... ?
We were	We were not	We weren't	Were we ... ?
They were	They were not	They weren't	Were they ... ?

Practice**17a** Complete the sentences using *was* or *were*.

- 1 He *was* very tired yesterday.
- 2 They *were* not very happy together.
- 3 You very angry with me last night.
- 4 Her doctor not very helpful.
- 5 They in France last summer.
- 6 Mr Jones not in the office yesterday.
- 7 I in bed all morning.
- 8 It not very warm in the swimming pool.
- 9 You not very friendly to my sister.
- 10 She a beautiful baby.
- 11 The children awake early this morning.
- 12 I not with them in the restaurant.
- 13 Ruth on holiday last week.
- 14 It a very nice letter.
- 15 We very pleased to see you.
- 16 Callum and his brother Josh here last night.

17b Complete the story, adding *was* and *were*.

It ¹ *was* a beautiful day. The sun ² *was* hot and the sky ³ blue.
 James and Wendy ⁴ on the beach. They ⁵ with their
 three children. The children ⁶ in the sea. The sea ⁷ a
 bit cold but the children ⁸ very happy. There ⁹ lots of
 other children in the sea too: some of them ¹⁰ in the water with

their parents. Wendy and James ¹¹..... on the sand and James ¹²..... asleep with a book on his face. But suddenly there ¹³..... grey clouds all over the sky and the sun ¹⁴..... not hot any more. The beautiful weather ¹⁵..... finished and there ¹⁶..... wet picnics and wet people everywhere. A British summer holiday!

17c In your notebook, write questions and answers about the story above, using *was* or *were*.

- 1 The weather nice?
'Was the weather nice?' 'Yes, it was a beautiful day.'
- 2 Where/James and Wendy?
'Where were James and Wendy?' 'They were on the beach.'
- 3 Where/their children?
- 4 Other children in the sea?
- 5 James and Wendy in the sea?
- 6 James awake?
- 7 What/on James' face?
- 8 Sunny all day?
- 9 The holidaymakers wet in the end?
- 10 Where/this beach?

17d In your notebook, write ten questions about a friend's trip to London, using the table below. Then choose a short answer for each question.

Was Were	the underground trains	warm?	Yes, it was. No, it wasn't. Yes, they were. No, they weren't.
	the weather the streets the people the parks the airport the museums the shops the hotel the food	comfortable? beautiful? friendly? busy? clean? expensive? good? fast? interesting?	

Examples: 'Were the underground trains fast?' 'Yes, they were.'
'Was the weather warm?' 'No, it wasn't.'