

Simple Past Tense - was, were

Elementary exercises

Forming the past tense of to be.

Affirmative and negative sentence

I	was		
He	was not		
She	wasn't	at home	
It		in hospital	yesterday.
You	were	on holiday	last week.
We	were not	in London	
They	weren't		

Interrogative sentence

Was	I		
	he		
	she	at home	
	it	in hospital	yesterday?
	you	on holiday	last week?
Were	we	in London	
	they		

Task 1 - Complete the sentences with the Past Tense of "to be".

- 1) We _____ in Australia.
- 2) She _____ in the classroom.
- 3) It _____ my birthday last week.
- 4) The man _____ in the train.
- 5) It _____ an apple.
- 6) You _____ in a bookshop.
- 7) It _____ a doll.
- 8) I _____ a good pupil.
- 9) What _____ this?
- 10) It _____ a French lesson.
- 11) It _____ a beautiful city.
- 12) He _____ my brother.
- 13) I _____ in London today.
- 14) We _____ on holiday.
- 15) The doctor _____ here.

Task 2 - Write some true sentences with was, were, wasn't, weren't.

Task 3 - Rewrite the sentences into the Simple Past Tense. Then write a negative sentence. Look at the example below.

I am at home. ⇒ I was at home. I wasn't at home.

- 1) He is my friend.

- 2) I am a man.

- 3) It is an umbrella.

- 4) That is a bird.

- 5) These are your pens and pencils.

- 6) They are happy people.

- 7) This is a kitchen.

- 8) Those are two bags, a ruler and a rubber.

- 9) We are in.

- 10) You are my brother.

Task 4 - Rewrite the sentences into the Simple Past. Then write an interrogative sentence. Look at the example below.

Mr Smith is at home. ⇒ Mr Smith was at home. Was Mr Smith at home?

1) I am a good teacher.

2) Mickey is strong and brave.

3) My name is Susan.

4) Peter is a boy.

5) She is a young woman.

6) These are my comics.

7) This is a family.

8) This pen is blue.

9) We are from Australia.

10) You are a stupid girl.

Task 6 - Underline the adverbs of time in Task 5. Then write them on the lines.

Task 5 - Change the following sentences into interrogative then give short answers according to the sign. Look at the examples.

Mr Smith was at home. ☒ ⇒ Was Mr Smith at home? Yes, he was.

Tim and Peter were in the library. ☒ ⇒ Were Tim and Peter in the library? No, they weren't.

1) I was in the garden. ☒

2) Mum was ill last week. ☒

3) They were on holiday in May. ☒

4) You were tired yesterday. ☒

5) We were in the park at 5 o'clock yesterday. ☒

6) Jack was too fat two years ago. ☒

7) The Lees were in the zoo the day before yesterday. ☒

8) I was always hungry. ☒

9) Kim and Greg were married. ☒

10) Frank Sinatra was a famous actor. ☒

Task 7 - Look at the calendar for last week and complete the sentences with *was, wasn't, were or weren't*.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
library	Mandy				Kim
football training				Sam	Tom
dance lesson	Lucy	Mandy			
the doctor's		Tom		Lucy	
cinema			Sam and Kim		

- 1) Mandy _____ in the library on Monday.
- 2) On Thursday Lucy _____ on a dance lesson.
- 3) Kim _____ in the library last week.
- 4) Sam _____ on football training on Thursday.
- 5) Tom _____ ill on Tuesday.
- 6) Sam and Kim _____ in the cinema on Wednesday.
- 7) Tom _____ ill on Friday, he _____ on football training.
- 8) Sam _____ at the doctor's.
- 9) Mandy _____ on a dance lesson on Tuesday.
- 10) Lucy _____ at the doctor's on Friday.
- 11) Tom and Sam _____ on football training last week.
- 12) Lucy _____ in the library on Thursday.



Task 8 - Write some more sentences about the people in Task 7.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____
- 10) _____