Lesson

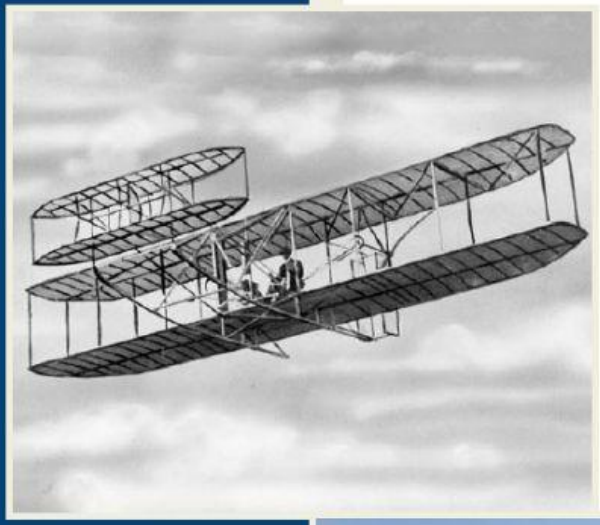
8

Grammar

The Simple Past Tense

Context

Flying



LIVEWORKSHEETS

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The Wright Brothers—Men with a Vision

Before You Read

1. Do you like to travel by airplane? Why or why not?
2. What are the names of some famous inventors?

CD 2, TR 01

Read the following textbook article. Pay special attention to simple-past-tense verbs.

Did You ***Know?***

The Wright brothers never married. Their only love was aviation.

Wilbur Wright, 1867–1912; Orville Wright, 1871–1948

Over 100 years ago, people only **dreamed** about flying. The Wright brothers, Wilbur and Orville, **were** dreamers who **changed** the world.

Wilbur Wright **was** born in 1867 and Orville **was** born in 1871. In 1878, they **received** a paper flying toy from their father. They **played** with kites and **started** to think about the possibility of flight.

When they were older, they **started** a bicycle business. They **used** the bicycle shop to design their airplanes. They **studied** three aspects of flying: lift, control, and power. In 1899, they **constructed** their first flying machine—a kite made of wood, wire, and cloth. It **had** no pilot. Because of wind, it was difficult to control. They **continued** to study aerodynamics.[1] Finally Wilbur **designed** a small machine with a gasoline engine. Wilbur **tried** to fly the machine, but it **crashed**. They **fixed** it and **flew** it for the first time on December 17, 1903, with Orville as the pilot. The airplane **remained** in the air for twelve seconds. It **traveled** a distance of 120 feet. This historic flight **changed** the world. However, only four newspapers in the U.S. **reported** this historic moment.

The Wright brothers **offered** their invention to the U.S. government, but the government **rejected**[2] their offer at first. The government **didn't believe** that these men **invented** a flying machine. Finally, President Theodore Roosevelt **investigated** their claims and **offered** the inventors a contract to build airplanes for the U.S. Army.

December 17, 2003, **marked** 100 years of flight. There **was** a six-day celebration at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the location of the first flight. A crowd of 35,000 people **gathered** to see a replica[3] of the first plane fly. The cost to re-create the plane **was** $1.2 million. However, it **rained** hard that day and the plane **failed** to get off the ground.

You can now see the Wright brothers' original airplane in the Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

[1] *Aerodynamics* is the branch of mechanics that deals with the motion of air and its effect on things.
[2] *Reject* means not accept.
[3] A *replica* is a copy of an original.

8.1 The Simple Past Tense of Regular Verbs

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
The Wright brothers **started** a bicycle business. They **dreamed** about flying. They **designed** an airplane. The president **offered** them a contract.	To form the simple past tense of regular verbs, we add *-ed* to the base form. **Base Form** / **Past Form** start / start**ed** dream / dream**ed** design / design**ed** offer / offer**ed** The past form is the same for all persons.
The Wright brothers **wanted** to *fly*. They **continued** to *study* aerodynamics.	The verb after *to* does **not** use the past form.
The Wright brothers **invented** the airplane over 100 years **ago**. We **celebrated** the 100th anniversary of flight a few years **ago**.	We often use *ago* in sentences about the past. *Ago* means *before now*.

EXERCISE 1 **Read more about the Wright brothers. Underline the past tense verbs in the following sentences.**

EXAMPLE The Wright brothers ___lived___ in Dayton, Ohio.

1. Their father worked as a Christian minister.
2. The boys learned mechanical things quickly.
3. They loved bicycles.
4. They opened the Wright Cycle Company repair shop, where they repaired bicycles.
5. They started to produce their own bicycle models.
6. The first airplane weighed over 600 pounds.
7. They succeeded in flying the first airplane in 1903.
8. Wilbur died nine years later, of typhoid.[4]
9. Orville lived to be 76 years old.

[4]*Typhoid* is a serious infection causing a fever and often death.

8.2 Spelling of the Past Tense of Regular Verbs

RULE	BASE FORM	PAST FORM
Add *-ed* to most regular verbs.	start rain	start**ed** rain**ed**
When the base form ends in *e*, add *-d* only.	die live	die**d** live**d**
When the base form ends in a consonant + *y*, change *y* to *i* and add *-ed*.	carry study	carr**ied** stud**ied**
When the base form ends in a vowel + *y*, add *-ed*. Do not change the *y*.	stay enjoy	stay**ed** enjoy**ed**
When a one-syllable verb ends in a consonant-vowel-consonant, double the final consonant and add *-ed*.	stop hug	stop**ped** hug**ged**
Do not double a final *w* or *x*.	show fix	show**ed** fix**ed**
When a two-syllable verb ends in a consonant-vowel-consonant, double the final consonant and add *-ed* only if the last syllable is stressed.	occúr permít	occur**red** permit**ted**
When the last syllable of a two-syllable verb is not stressed, do not double the final consonant.	ópen óffer	open**ed** offer**ed**

EXERCISE 2 **Write the past tense of these regular verbs. (Accent marks show you where a word is stressed.)**

EXAMPLES learn *learned* clap *clapped*
love *loved* lísten *listened*

1. play _____
2. study _____
3. decide _____
4. want _____
5. like _____
6. show _____
7. look _____
8. stop _____
9. háppen _____
10. carry _____
11. enjoy _____
12. drag _____
13. drop _____
14. start _____
15. follow _____
16. prefér _____
17. like _____
18. mix _____
19. admít _____
20. propél _____

8.3 Pronunciation of *-ed* Past Forms

PRONUNCIATION	RULE	EXAMPLES	
/t/	Pronounce /t/ after voiceless sounds: /p, k, f, s, š, č/	jump—jumped cook—cooked cough—coughed	kiss—kissed wash—washed watch—watched
/d/	Pronounce /d/ after voiced sounds: /b, g, v, đ, z, ž, ǰ, m, n, ŋ, l, r/ and all vowel sounds.	rub—rubbed drag—dragged love—loved bathe—bathed use—used massage—massaged charge—charged	name—named learn—learned bang—banged call—called care—cared free—freed
/əd/	Pronounce /əd/ after /d/ or /t/ sounds.	wait—waited hate—hated want—wanted	add—added decide—decided

EXERCISE 3 **Go back to Exercise 2 and pronounce the base form and past form of each verb.**

EXERCISE 4 **Fill in the blanks with the past tense of the verb in parentheses ( ). Use the correct spelling.**

EXAMPLE The Wright brothers ___received___ (receive) a flying toy from their father.

1. They _____ (play) with kites.
2. They _____ (dream) about flying.
3. They _____ (study) everything they could about flying.
4. They _____ (start) a bicycle business.
5. They _____ (use) the bicycle shop to design airplanes.
6. They _____ (try) to fly their first plane in 1899.
7. Their first plane _____ (crash).
8. They _____ (fix) it.
9. In 1903, their plane _____ (stay) in the air for 12 seconds.
10. They _____ (offer) their invention to the U.S. government.
11. The government _____ (decide) to offer them a contract.

(continued)

12. Wilbur Wright _____ in 1912.
(die)

13. Orville Wright _____ for many more years.
(live)

14. Their invention _____ the world.
(change)

Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart

Before You Read

1. When was the first time you traveled by airplane?

2. Do you recognize the people in the photos below?

CD 2, TR 02

Read the following textbook article. Pay special attention to the past-tense forms of *be*.

Charles Lindbergh, 1902–1974

At the beginning of the twentieth century, flight **was** new. It **was** not for everyone. It **was** only for the brave and adventurous. Two adventurers **were** Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart.

Charles Lindbergh loved to fly. He **was** born in 1902, one year before the Wright brothers' historic flight. In 1927, a man offered a $25,000 reward for the first person to fly from New York to Paris nonstop. Lindbergh **was** a pilot for the United States Mail Service at that time. He wanted to win the prize. He became famous because he **was** the first person to fly alone across the Atlantic Ocean. His plane **was** in the air for 33 hours. The distance of the flight **was** 3,600 miles. There **were** thousands of people in New York to welcome him home. He **was** an American hero. He **was** only 25 years old.

Amelia Earhart, 1897–1937

Another famous American aviator[5] **was** Amelia Earhart. She **was** the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean alone. She **was** 34 years old. Americans **were** in love with Earhart. In 1937, however, she **was** on a flight around the world when her plane disappeared somewhere in the Pacific Ocean. No one really knows what happened to Earhart.

[5]*Aviator* means pilot.

8.4 Past Tense of *Be*

The verb *be* has two forms in the past: *was* and *were*.

EXAMPLES			EXPLANATION
Subject	***Was***	**Complement**	*I* *He* *She* *It* singular subject } *was*
I		interested in the story.	
Charles		a pilot.	
He		brave.	
Amelia	**was**	a pilot too.	
She		popular.	
The airplane		new in 1903.	
It		in the air for 12 seconds.	
Subject	***Were***	**Complement**	*We* *You* *They* plural subject } *were*
We		interested in the story.	
You	**were**	in class yesterday.	
Amelia and Charles		brave.	
They		adventurous.	
There	***Was***	**Singular Subject**	*There* + *was* + singular noun
There	**was**	a celebration in 2003.	
There	***Were***	**Plural Subject**	*There* + *were* + plural noun
There	**were**	thousands of people.	
Charles Lindbergh **was not** the first person to fly. We **were not** at the 2003 celebration.			To make a negative statement, put *not* after *was* or *were*.
I **wasn't** here yesterday. You **weren't** in class yesterday.			The contraction for *was not* is *wasn't*. The contraction for *were not* is *weren't*.

EXERCISE 5 **Fill in the blanks with *was* or *were*.**

EXAMPLE Lindbergh and Earhart ___were___ very famous.

1. The Wright brothers _____ the inventors of the airplane.
2. The first airplane _____ in the air for 12 seconds.
3. Lindbergh and Earhart _____ aviators.
4. There _____ thousands of people in New York to welcome Lindbergh home.
5. Earhart _____ the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean.
6. I _____ interested in the story about Earhart and Lindbergh.
7. _____ you surprised that a woman was a famous aviator?
8. Lindbergh _____ in Paris.
9. We _____ happy to read about flight.
10. There _____ a celebration of 100 years of flight in 2003.
11. There _____ thousands of people at the celebration.

8.5 Uses of *Be*

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
Lindbergh **was** an aviator.	Classification of the subject
Lindbergh **was** brave.	Description of the subject
Lindbergh **was** in Paris.	Location of the subject
Earhart **was** from Kansas.	Place of origin of the subject
She **was** born in 1897.	With *born*
There **were** thousands of people in New York to welcome Lindbergh.	With *there*
Lindbergh **was** 25 years old in 1927.	With age

EXERCISE 6 **Read each statement. Then write a negative statement with the words in parentheses ( ).**

EXAMPLE The Wright brothers were inventors. (Earhart and Lindbergh)
Earhart and Lindbergh weren't inventors.

1. The train was common transportation in the early 1900s. (the airplane)

_____

2. Earhart was from Kansas. (Lindbergh)

_____

3. Lindbergh's last flight was successful. (Earhart's last flight)

_____

4. Lindbergh's plane was in the air for many hours. (the Wright brothers' first plane)

_____

5. The Wright brothers were inventors. (Earhart)

_____

6. There were a lot of trains 100 years ago. (planes)

_____

7. Lindbergh was born in the twentieth century. (the Wright brothers)

_____

8. The 1903 flight at Kitty Hawk was successful. (the 2003 flight)

_____

8.6 Questions with *Was/Were*

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
Was the first flight long? No, it **wasn't.** **Was** the first flight successful? Yes, it **was.** **Were** the Wright brothers inventors? Yes, they **were.**	***Yes/No* Questions** *Was/were* + subject . . . ? **Short answers** Yes, + subject + *was/were.* No, + subject + *wasn't/weren't.*
Were there a lot of people at the 100-year celebration? Yes, there **were.** **Was** there a lot of rain that day? Yes, there **was.**	***There* Questions** *Was/were + there . . . ?* **Short Answers** Yes, there *was/were.* No, there *wasn't/weren't.*
How long **was** the first flight? Where **was** the first flight?	***Wh-* Questions** *Wh-* word + *was/were* + subject . . . ?
Why **wasn't** Amelia successful? Why **weren't** you there?	**Negative Questions** *Why + wasn't/weren't* + subject . . . ?
Who **was** with Earhart when she disappeared? How many people **were** in the airplane?	**Subject Questions** *Who + was . . . ?* *How many . . . + were . . . ?*

Compare affirmative statements and questions.

Wh- Word	*Was/Were*	Subject	*Was/Were*	Complement	Short Answer
		Amelia	**was**	born before 1903.	
	Was	she		born in the U.S.?	Yes, she was.
When	**was**	she		born?	In 1897.
		Charles and Amelia	**were**	famous.	
	Were	they		inventors?	No, they weren't.
		Someone	**was**	with Amelia.	
		Who	**was**	with Amelia?	A copilot.
		Many people	**were**	at the celebration.	
		How many people	**were**	at the celebration?	Thousands.

Compare negative statements and questions.

Wh- Word	*Wasn't/Weren't*	Subject	*Wasn't/Weren't*	Complement
		Air travel	**wasn't**	safe 100 years ago.
Why	**wasn't**	it		safe?
		The Wright brothers	**weren't**	afraid of flying.
Why	**weren't**	they		afraid?