12. Wilbur Wright _____ (die) in 1912.

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

14. Their invention _____ (change) the world.

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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?

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EXERCISE 7 **Read each statement. Then write a *yes/no* question with the words in parentheses ( ). Give a short answer.**

EXAMPLE The Wright brothers were inventors. (Lindbergh)
Was Lindbergh an inventor? No, he wasn't.

1. The airplane was an important invention. (the telephone)

2. Thomas Edison was an inventor. (the Wright brothers)

3. Amelia Earhart was American. (Lindbergh)

4. Travel by plane is common now. (100 years ago)

5. There were telephones 100 years ago. (airplanes)

6. You are in class today. (yesterday)

7. I was interested in the story about the aviators. (you)

8. I wasn't born in the U.S. (you)

EXERCISE 8 **ABOUT YOU** **Interview a classmate who is from another country.**

1. Where were you born?
2. Were you happy or sad when you left your country?
3. Who was with you on your trip?
4. Were you happy or sad when you arrived?
5. What was your first impression of your new home?
6. Were you tired when you arrived?
7. Who was at the airport to meet you?
8. How was the weather on the day you arrived?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

EXERCISE 9 **Read each statement. Then write a *wh-* question with the words in parentheses ( ). Answer the question.**

EXAMPLE Lindbergh was very famous. (why)

A: Why was Lindbergh famous?

B: He was one of the first aviators.

1. Lindbergh was a hero. (why)

   A: _____

   B: _____

2. Lindbergh was American. (what nationality/Earhart)

   A: _____

   B: _____

3. Earhart was 34 years old when she crossed the ocean. (how old/Lindbergh)

   A: _____

   B: _____

4. Lindbergh was a famous aviator. (who/the Wright brothers)

   A: _____

   B: _____

5. Lindbergh was born in 1902. (when/Earhart)

   A: _____

   B: _____

6. The Wright brothers were famous. (why)

   A: _____

   B: _____

7. The flight at Kitty Hawk in 2003 wasn't successful. (why)

   A: _____

   B: _____

EXERCISE 10 **Fill in the blanks with the correct past-tense form of *be*. Add any other necessary words.**

CD 2, TR 03

A: I tried to call you last weekend. I ___was___ (example) worried about you.

B: I _____ (1 not) home. I _____ (2) out of town.

A: Where _____ (3)?

B: In Washington, D.C.

A: _____ (4) alone?

(continued)

LIVEWORKSHEETS



National Air and Space Museum

B: No, I _____ (5). I was with my brother.

A: _____ (6) expensive?

B: No. Our trip wasn't expensive at all.

A: Really? Why _____ (7) expensive?

B: The flight from here to Washington _____ (8) cheap. And we stayed with some friends in their apartment. They _____ (9) very helpful. They showed us a lot of beautiful places in Washington. But my favorite place was the Air and Space Museum.

A: _____ (10) a lot of people at the museum?

B: Yes, there were. It _____ (11) very crowded. But it _____ (12) wonderful to see the Wright brothers' airplane and the airplane that Lindbergh used when he crossed the Atlantic. Also it _____ (13) interesting to see the spacecraft of the astronauts. We _____ (14 not) bored for one minute in that museum.

A: How long _____ (15) your flight to Washington?

B: It _____ (16) only 2 hours and 15 minutes from here. We don't think about flying as anything special anymore. But just a little over 100 years ago, flight _____ (17) just a dream of two brothers. Can you believe it? There _____ (18) only 66 years between the first flight in 1903 and the trip to the moon in 1969!

A: That's amazing!

8.7 Simple Past Tense of Irregular Verbs—An Overview

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
I **came** to the U.S. by plane. My flight **took** six hours. I **felt** happy when I arrived.	Many verbs are irregular in the past tense. An irregular verb does not use the *-ed* ending.

LIVEWORKSHEETS