

WORKSHEET 5

SUBJECT: *Past form of Verb "To Be"*

A) Fill in the blanks. Use WAS / WERE:

1. Mary and Susan **were** ill yesterday.
2. The weather very hot last Saturday.
3. The students at the theater last night.
4. Betty in Germany last summer.
5. My brother and I at the football stadium on Saturday.
6. it cold yesterday?

B) Put these sentences into the PAST. Use past form of verb "TO BE":

T O D A Y

Example: I'm at home.

1. Jane and Michael are tired.
2. She's in the park.
3. It's a sunny day.
4. You're late.
5. They aren't hungry.
6. We aren't at work.
7. I'm thirsty.
8. You aren't at school.
9. We're at the cinema.
10. Paula isn't happy.
11. Everyone is excited.
12. I'm not afraid.

Y E S T E R D A Y

..... **I was at home**

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C) Choose WAS or WERE and circle it:

1. He **was / were** a policeman.
2. We **was / were** very happy.
3. **Was / Were** you happy?
4. They **wasn't / weren't** interested in.
5. I **was / were** at school.
6. It **wasn't / weren't** expensive.
7. **Was / Were** she your teacher?

D) Complete the text with WAS or WERE:

Interviewer: What it like during the First World War, Bill?

Bill : It a terrible time. I a young man, so I
in the army. We in Italy.

Interviewer: Where your wife and children?

Bill : They in London. That dangerous too. There
bombs and there not a lot of food. The children very

young and they very frightened.

E) Are these statements TRUE or FALSE? Correct the FALSE statements using WASN'T or WEREN'T:

Example: a) Bill was an old man during the First World War.

FALSE- *Bill wasn't an old man during the First World War.*

b) Bill was in the army. TRUE

- c) Bill was in Poland.
d) Bill's wife and children were in Italy.
e) It was dangerous in London.
f) There was a lot of food in London.
g) The children were quite old.
h) The children were frightened.

F) Make questions about the text using WAS or WERE:

Example: a) How old / Bill / during the First World War?

How old was Bill during the First World War?

- b) / Bill / in the army??
c) Where / Bill??
d) Where / Bill's wife and children??
e) / It dangerous in London??
f) / there bombs??
g) / there a lot of food??
h) How old / the children??
i) / the children frightened??

G) Read the interview and answer the questions:

Bill Jenkins is 100 today.

Interviewer: Bill, I expect life is very different today than a hundred years ago. What **was** it like?

Bill : Yes, it is very different. Life **was** much quieter then. There are so many cars now. There **weren't** any cars when I **was** a boy.

Interviewer: **Were** you happy as a child?

Bill : Oh yes, I **was** very happy, but I'm still happy now!

Interviewer: Tell me about your family.

Bill : Well, my father **was** a postman and my mother **was** a cook. We **weren't** rich, but we **weren't** poor either. There **were** five children. My brothers and sisters **were** all younger than me but I'm the only one still here.

1. Were there any cars when he was a boy?
2. Was he happy or sad when he was a child?
3. What was his mother's job?
4. How many children were there in his family?

5. How old is Bill Jenkins?

H) Mary spent last weekend in Madrid. Ask her some questions using WAS or WERE:

Example: (your hotel / good?)

..... *Was your hotel good?*

1. (your room / comfortable?)

2. (the weather / nice?)

3. (the streets / full of people?)

4. (the shops / expensive?)

5. (the city / exciting at night?)

6. (the museums / interesting?)

7. (the people / friendly?)

8. (your flight / OK?)

I) George and Sally have been married for 50 years. They are talking about their first house. Use WAS or WERE and a word from the box to complete their conversation:

new	Italian	big	green
cheap	cold	bad	

Example: George : The house was warm.

Sally : No, it*was cold*.

1. George: The garden was small.

Sally : No, it

2. Sally : The neighbors were French.

George: No, they

3. George: The living-room was red.

Sally : No, it

4. Sally : Our first chairs were expensive.

George: No, they

5. George: The kitchen was old.

Sally : No, it

6. George: The local shops were good.

Sally : No, they

J) Put WAS, WASN'T, WERE or WEREN'T in the gaps in these conversations:

1. Peter : *Was* Paul at work today?

Julie : No, he in the office. I think he's sick.

2. Henry : you in South America last year?

Steve : Yes. I in Bolivia on business, and then my wife and I

in Brazil for a holiday.

3. Paula : Philip and I at home in London last week. We at Mike's house in Cornwall. It was lovely there. Do you know Mike?
Jane : Yes, I at Mike's party in Oxford in the summer.
.....you there?
Paula : No, we weren't there. Philip and I in Portugal in the summer.

K) Make questions using WAS / WERE:

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| 1. Jim / at home / last night. | <i>Was Jim at home last night?</i> ...? |
| 2. You / at school / on Monday. |? |
| 3. David / here / yesterday. |? |
| 4. the cinema / open / on Sunday. |? |
| 5. Kate and Jane / late / yesterday. |? |
| 6. you / in the football team / last year. |? |
| 7. all your friends / at your party. |? |
| 8. it / hot / last week. |? |

L) Make negative sentences using WAS / WERE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Kevin / at my party. | <i>Kevin wasn't at my party</i> |
| 2. Nick / in class yesterday. | |
| 3. It / warm / yesterday. | |
| 4. Tina and Jim / late. | |
| 5. Etty / on the bus. | |
| 6. We / at the match / yesterday. | |
| 7. Our teachers / pleased with us. | |
| 8. I / at the restaurant. | |

N) Fill in the blanks using WAS (NOT) / WERE (NOT):

1. I'm here today but I *wasn't* here yesterday.
2. Jennifer is tall now but she tall two years ago.
3. It is rainy today but it yesterday.
4. Mr. Smith is angry now but he an hour ago.
5. The shops are open today but they on Sunday.
6. My car is clean today but it yesterday.
7. My father isn't at home now but he an hour ago.
8. The students are in class today but they last week.
9. It isn't sunny now but it an hour ago.
10. We aren't hungry now but we twenty minutes ago.