

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) _____