

Grammar Station

Past Simple: The Verb Be

- We use the **past simple** to talk about what happened in the past.
- The verb **be** has two past forms: **was** and **were**.
- We often use the past simple with these words: *yesterday, last week, last year, etc.*

Positive		Negative	
Subject	Be	Subject	Be + Not
I	was	I	was not (= wasn't)
He/She/It	was	He/She/It	was not (= wasn't)
We/You/They	were	We/You/They	were not (= weren't)



I was sick last night.



Mary was busy last week.

It was cloudy yesterday.
It wasn't rainy.They were at the cinema last night.
They weren't at home.

Match the subjects with the verb be.

- | | | | |
|---------|---|-------------|---|
| 1. You | • | 2. She | • |
| 3. He | • | 4. We | • |
| 5. I | • | 6. It | • |
| 7. They | • | 8. The boys | • |
- was
- were
- wasn't
- weren't

A Circle the correct words.

- We (are / were) late yesterday.
- I (am / was) angry yesterday.
- He (is / was) at home yesterday.
- She (is / was) sick yesterday.
- The weather (was / were) nice.
- They (was / were) expensive.
- You (was / were) at school.
- Tom (was / were) sleepy.

B Change and complete the sentences in the past simple.

- I'm very tired today. → I was very tired yesterday.
- Greg isn't busy today. → Greg wasn't busy yesterday.
- It is wet and cold today. → It was wet and cold yesterday.
- They aren't happy today. → They weren't happy yesterday.
- We are in the library today. → We were in the library yesterday.

C Complete the sentences in the past simple.

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The man was poor.
He wasn't rich.
- 

They were soccer players.
They were tennis players.
- 

My room was dirty.
It wasn't clean.
- 

We were in the garden.
We were on the playground.

A Where were they at 5:00 yesterday? Choose and complete the sentences.



1. Mr. Pitt was in the garden.
2. Ms. Moore was in the kitchen.
3. Sue and Ken were in the park.
4. Amy and Fred were in the library.

in the park
in the library
in the kitchen

B Complete the negative sentences using the short forms.

1. I / well I wasn't well last week.
2. we / at the gym were not at the gym yesterday.
3. it / sunny wasn't sunny this morning.
4. the movie / interesting wasn't interesting last time.
5. the shops / open were not open yesterday.

C Correct the underlined words and rewrite the sentences.

1. John and I wasn't at school. → John and I weren't at school.
2. My father were in the garden. → was in the garden.
3. The boys was late for school. → were late for school.
4. Joe weren't busy yesterday. → wasn't busy yesterday.
5. The exercise were difficult. → was difficult.

When you write in a diary, you can use the past simple forms of the verb *be* to describe how a situation was.

Complete the diary using the past simple forms of the verb *be*.

Tuesday, April 30,

My family and I were in New York today. In the morning, we visited the Statue of Liberty. We climbed to the top. It was very high. But we were frightened. We were very excited.

Next, we visited Central Park. It was large, and it was beautiful. The weather was good in the morning, but it was nice in the afternoon. It was a wonderful trip.

Review!

Complete the chart.

Positive	Negative
I <u>was</u> very tired yesterday.	I <u>wasn't</u> very tired yesterday.
You <u>were</u> at school.	You <u>were not</u> at school.
She <u>was</u> sick yesterday.	She <u>wasn't</u> sick yesterday.
It <u>was</u> sunny this morning.	It <u>wasn't</u> sunny this morning.
We <u>were</u> in the library.	We <u>were not</u> in the library.
They <u>were</u> hungry.	They <u>were not</u> hungry.