

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	• was
5. I	•	6. It	• weren't
7. They	•	8. The boys	•

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 were happy yesterday.
- We are in the library today. ➔ We were in the library yesterday.

C Complete the sentences in the past simple.

-  The man was poor.
He wasn't rich.
-  They were soccer players.
They weren't tennis players.
-  My room was dirty.
It wasn't clean.
-  We were in the garden.
We weren't on the playground.

Practice

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 library.

3. Sue and Ken were in the park.

4. Amy and Fred were in the kitchen.

in the park
in the garden
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 we weren't at the gym yesterday.

3. it / sunny it wasn't sunny this morning.

4. the movie / interesting the movie wasn't interesting last time.

5. the shops / open the shops weren't 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. My father wasn't in the garden.

3. The boys was late for school. The boys weren't late for school.

4. Joe weren't busy yesterday. Joe wasn't busy yesterday.

5. The exercise were difficult. The exercise wasn't difficult.

Grammar in Writing

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>weren't</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>weren't</u> in the library.
They <u>were</u> hungry.	They <u>weren't</u> hungry.