

1 Look at the examples.

Positive

I **was** at my sister's wedding.
 We **were** at a barbecue near the beach.
 All the bands **were** fantastic.

Negative

The weather **wasn't** great.
 You **weren't** in class.

Questions and short answers

Where **were** you last night?
 How **was** the food?
Were you at the football match? Yes, I **was**.
Was it fun? No, it **wasn't**.

Now choose the correct words in the box to complete the rules about the past simple of *be*.

was were n't

- 1 We use _____ with I/he/she/it.
- 2 We use _____ with you/we/they.
- 3 We add _____ to was/were to make negative sentences.
- 4 We put _____ / _____ before the subject to make questions.

UNIT 4

PAST SIMPLE OF *BE*

Positive	I/He/She/It was at home yesterday. You/We/They were at school at ten o'clock.
Negative	I/He/She/It wasn't (was not) five years old in 2010. You/We/They weren't in the park yesterday.
Questions	Where was I/he/she/it at six o'clock? Who were you/we/they with yesterday? Was I/he/she/it late? Were you/we/they happy?
Short answers	Yes, I/he/she/it was . No, I/he/she/it wasn't (was not). Yes, you/we/they were . No, you/we/they weren't (were not).

Was/were are the past forms of *be*. We use *was/were* to describe people and things in the past.

My grandmother was tall and she was very beautiful.

The earrings were fantastic. They were round.

We also use *was/were* or *were/weren't* to say where people or things were or weren't in the past.

We weren't at school yesterday. It was a holiday.

The new T-shirt wasn't in her bedroom.

We start sentences with *was/weren't* to make questions.

Was it a good party? Weren't your friends with you?

We can use *was/weren't* in short answers without the noun.

Yes, it was. No, they weren't.

Practice

1 Complete the sentences with *was(n't)* or *were(n't)*.

- 0 I was very surprised.
- 1 My friends _____ interested in my new phone.
- 2 My dad _____ (not) in the office at 11 o'clock.
- 3 We _____ (not) happy. Our dog _____ missing.
- 4 You _____ very tired yesterday.
- 5 I _____ (not) hungry, but I _____ very thirsty.

2 Put the words in order to make questions. Then write the short answer.

- 0 bored / you / were / ? (✓)
Were you bored? Yes, I was.
- 1 your / tall / teacher / was / first / ? (✓)

- 2 shoes / were / his / broken / ? (✓)

- 3 you / and / friends / your / cold / were / ? (X)

- 4 mobile / bag / was / in / your / your / ? (X)

- 5 lake / were / the / we / near / ? (✓)

3 Write complete questions with *was* or *were*. Then write answers that are true for you.

- 0 Where / you / yesterday / at 6 pm?
Where were you yesterday at 6 pm? I was at home.
- 1 you / late / for school on Monday?

- 2 your friends / tired / at 9 am this morning?

- 3 When / your best friend / born?

- 4 What day / it / yesterday?

- 5 this exercise / difficult?

2 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 My school lunch *was* / *were* really nice yesterday.
- 2 My brothers *was* / *were* late home this evening.
- 3 That TV programme *wasn't* / *weren't* very good!
- 4 We *wasn't* / *weren't* too tired after our walk.
- 5 What *was* / *were* the time when you got home?
- 6 How many people *was* / *were* on the school trip?

3 Correct the mistakes in the sentences.



- 0 The weather was good yesterday.
- 1 All my friends *was* here on Saturday.
- 2 I like your new shoes! Are they expensive?
- 3 Yesterday I *were* at a friend's house.
- 4 The players *was* good and the weather *was* fine.
- 5 That is an awesome party last night!

4 Complete the conversation with *was/wasn't*, *were/weren't*.

Suzy: Hi Max. Where ⁰ were you yesterday afternoon? You ¹ _____ at school.

Max: Oh hi Suzy. No, I ² _____. I ³ _____ at a big athletics competition at the city sports club.

Suzy: Really? ⁴ _____ it fun?

Max: Yes, it ⁵ _____. It ⁶ _____ amazing! I ⁷ _____ the winner of the 800 m race!

Suzy: Fantastic! ⁸ _____ your parents there?

Max: No, they ⁹ _____. They ¹⁰ _____ at work. But my brother ¹¹ _____ there with his video camera, so it ¹² _____ fine!



PRONUNCIATION

was/were



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Listen to some sentences from the conversation and repeat them.

Now practise the conversation with your partner. Take turns to close your book and see if you can remember it.

- 6 Complete the questions with the words in the box. Then ask and answer the questions with a partner.

Was	Were	What was	What were
When was	Where were	Who were	

- 1 your dinner like last night?
- 2 your friend late this morning?
- 3 your teachers when you were six?
- 4 you on Saturday morning?
- 5 your favourite TV shows when you were little?
- 6 you in this class last year?
- 7 your last haircut?

Write three more questions to ask your partner.
Tell the rest of the class the answers.