Simple past – verb *to be*

1. Complete the sentences with was, were, wasn't, or weren't.

A Who's that?

B It's William Shakespeare.

A Why _____ he famous?

B He _____ a writer.

A _____ he Scottish?

B No, he _____. He _____ English. He _____ born in Stratford-upon-Avon.

A And _____ he married?

B Yes, he _____. His wife's name _____ Anne.

A And _____ they happy?

B I don't know.

2. Write questions and answers.

a. Mozart / from / Germany?

_____

_____

b. Columbus and Magellan / explorers? ✓

_____

_____

c. Virginia Wolf / writer? ✓

_____

_____

d. the Bee Gees / from the USA?

_____

_____

e. Ayrton Senna / footballer?

_____

_____

f. Matisse / composer?

_____

_____

g. Picasso / born / Spain? ✓

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_____

_____

h. Greta Garbo / actress? ✓

_____

_____

i. Tolstoy and Cervantes / painters?

_____

_____

j. Nelson Mandela / born / Britain?

_____

_____

3. Complete the sentences with the present or past forms of *be*.

a. Today _____ Monday, so yesterday _____ Sunday.

b. A: Hi. _____ your sister at home?

B: No, she _____. She _____ here this morning but now she _____ at work.

c. My books _____ here this morning. Where _____ they now?

d. James _____ born in England, but his parents _____ born in Singapore.

e. My boss _____ angry today because I _____ very late for work yesterday, and this morning too.

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