

Grammar Station



Past Simple (The Verb Be): Positive & Negative

- ★ We use the **past simple** to talk about something that 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		
I	was	a teacher last year.
He/She/It	was	in London last week.
We/You/They	were	sick yesterday.
Negative		
I	was not (=wasn't)	a teacher last year.
He/She/It	was not (=wasn't)	in London last week.
We/You/They	were not (=weren't)	sick yesterday.



There **was** a big storm last night.
I **was** very scared.



Bob **wasn't** the captain of our team.
Dave **was** the captain.

★ Check the correct sentences.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. ☒ I wasn't at home last night. | ☐ I'm not at home last night. |
| 2. ☐ It was hot last week. | ☐ It is hot last week. |
| 3. ☐ We are tired yesterday. | ☐ We were tired yesterday. |
| 4. ☐ He wasn't tall last year. | ☐ He weren't tall last year. |

A Circle the correct words.

1. I (was / were) at the beach.
2. She (was / were) on the swing.
3. The lady (was / were) quiet.
4. It (was / were) foggy yesterday.
5. You (was / were) weak last year.
6. The show (was / were) fun.
7. My clothes (was / were) wet.
8. The plants (was / were) small.

B Complete the sentences with *wasn't* or *weren't*.

1. The tower wasn't big.
2. The cowboys _____ scared.
3. He _____ a basketball player.
4. Hannah _____ thin last year.
5. My shoes _____ on the shelf.
6. We _____ angry this morning.
7. There _____ a bakery here.
8. It _____ dark in the room.

C Complete the sentences.

- | | before | now | |
|----|---|---|---|
| 1. |  |  | Ken's parents <u>were</u> in Paris last week.
They _____ very busy there.
They _____ in Rome now. |
| 2. |  |  | My sister _____ sick yesterday.
She _____ in bed all day.
She _____ all right now. |
| 3. |  |  | Tim and I _____ under the tree at noon.
We _____ not bored.
We _____ in the tent now. |

A Complete the sentences in the past simple.



sunny / cloudy



big / small



boring / fun



huge / small

1. It was sunny this morning. It wasn't cloudy.
2. My glasses _____ before. They _____.
3. The magic show _____. It _____.
4. This dinosaur _____. It _____.

B Complete the sentences.

	Past	Present
1.	<u>Joe was</u> at the birthday party.	Joe is at the birthday party.
2.	_____ many people.	There aren't many people.
3.	_____ hungry.	Joe isn't hungry.
4.	Lynn's cats were under the table.	_____ under the table.
5.	Simon was sick yesterday.	Simon _____ today.

C Correct the underlined words and rewrite the sentences.

1. Eric not was tired yesterday. → Eric was not tired yesterday.
2. They wasn't busy last week. → _____
3. We was not in Canada last month. → _____
4. I were in my room after lunch. → _____
5. You was at the beach yesterday. → _____

Complete the report in the past simple.



DINOSAURS BECAME EXTINCT

We can see many dinosaurs in movies. Some dinosaurs were really huge and some _____ small. T. rex _____ a meat-eating giant. It _____ very fierce. Brachiosaurus and Diplodocus _____ big and tall, but they _____ meat-eating dinosaurs. They were _____ plant eaters. There are no dinosaurs today. We can just see their bones in natural history museums. We only know they _____ here on Earth a long time ago. They went extinct millions of years ago! What _____ the reason? Nobody knows for sure!



T. rex



Brachiosaurus



Diplodocus



Complete the chart.

Positive		Negative	
I	<u>was</u> tired last night.	She	<u>was not</u> happy yesterday.
He		Her dad	(= <u>wasn't</u>)
My aunt		Ken	_____ at home at 7:00.
The actor	_____ busy yesterday.	The boy	(= _____)
We		You	_____ in Sydney last year.
They	_____ sleepy then.	They	(= _____)