GRAMMAR Past simple of *be*

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**.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 / ? (✗)
_____
4 mobile / bag / was / in / your / your / ? (✗)
_____
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 ~~is~~ *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!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PRONUNCIATION *was/were*

33 **5** **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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS