

Past Simple of To Be (was, were) – Worksheet 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 39



Do this worksheet
online and check your
answers instantly

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences

Complete each sentence with *was* or *were*.

Example: She ____ (be) at the shop. → was

1. I _____ (be) at home yesterday.
2. My parents _____ (be) in Rome last week.
3. The film _____ (be) very good.
4. We _____ (be) tired after the party.
5. You _____ (be) late this morning.
6. It _____ (be) cold on Monday.
7. Lena and Tom _____ (be) at school yesterday.

Exercise 2: Use the words in the box

Complete the sentences with a word from the box. There are two extra words.

Example: Yesterday ____ my birthday. → was

WORD BOX

was were wasn't weren't is are

8. The shop _____ open on Sunday, so we went home.
9. _____ you at the park yesterday?
10. My brother _____ ill last week, so he stayed in bed.
11. The children _____ at school yesterday. It was Saturday.
12. _____ your teacher nice? – Yes, she was.
13. The tickets _____ cheap. They were very expensive.
14. I _____ hungry, so I ate a big sandwich.

Exercise 3: Negatives and questions

Rewrite each sentence as a negative or a question, as shown in brackets.

Example: He was at the gym. (negative) → He wasn't at the gym.

15. She was at the cinema. (negative)

16. They were in the garden. (question)

17. The test was easy. (question)

18. We were at the beach on Sunday. (negative)

19. Your friends were friendly. (question)

20. I was at work yesterday. (negative)

21. It was sunny yesterday. (question)

Exercise 4: Put the words in order

Put the words in the correct order to make sentences or questions.

Example: was / he / tired / . → He was tired.

22. were / where / you / yesterday / ?

23. Anna / at / the / was / party / .

24. weren't / we / home / at / .

25. the / was / how / weather / ?

26. late / was / bus / the / ?

27. my / were / in / keys / bag / my / not / .

Exercise 5: Find the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

Example: He were sad. → He was sad.

28. I were very happy yesterday.

29. They was at the museum on Friday.

30. Was you at home last night?

31. She is at the doctor's yesterday.

32. We wasn't hungry.

33. Were the film long?

Exercise 6: Questions and short answers

Match each question with the correct short answer from the box. There is one extra answer.

Example: Was it hot? → Yes, it was.

WORD BOX

Yes, I was. No, they weren't. Yes, it was. No, she wasn't. Yes, we were. No, he wasn't.
Yes, you were.

34. Were you tired after the game, Anna? → _____

35. Were Sam and Mia at the café? → _____

36. Was the museum interesting? → _____

37. Was your sister at work on Monday? → _____

38. Were you and Ben at the concert? → _____

39. Was Mr Brown your teacher last year? → _____

Answer key – Past Simple of To Be (was, were) – Worksheet 1

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences

1. **was**
With I we use was.
2. **were**
My parents = they, so we use were.
3. **was**
The film = it, so we use was.
4. **were**
With we we use were.
5. **were**
With you we always use were.
6. **was**
With it we use was.
7. **were**
Lena and Tom = they, so we use were.

Exercise 2: Use the words in the box

8. **wasn't**
The shop was closed, so we need the negative wasn't.
9. **Were**
Questions with you start with Were.
10. **was**
My brother = he, and last week is past, so we use was.
11. **weren't**
There is no school on Saturday, so we need the negative weren't.
12. **Was**
Your teacher = she, so the question starts with Was.
13. **weren't**
The tickets were expensive, so they weren't cheap.
14. **was**
With I in the past we use was.

Exercise 3: Negatives and questions

15. **She wasn't at the cinema.**
Negative: was + not = wasn't.
16. **Were they in the garden?**
In questions, were comes before the subject.
17. **Was the test easy?**
In questions, was comes before the subject.
18. **We weren't at the beach on Sunday.**
Negative: were + not = weren't.
19. **Were your friends friendly?**
Put were at the start of the question.
20. **I wasn't at work yesterday.**
Negative with I: wasn't or was not.
21. **Was it sunny yesterday?**
Put was before it to make a question.

Exercise 4: Put the words in order

22. **Where were you yesterday?**
Wh- question: question word + were + subject.
23. **Anna was at the party.**
Positive sentence: subject + was + place.
24. **We weren't at home.**
Negative sentence: subject + weren't + place.
25. **How was the weather?**
Wh- question: How + was + subject.
26. **Was the bus late?**
Yes/No question: Was + subject + adjective.
27. **My keys were not in my bag.**
Negative sentence: subject + were not + place.

Exercise 5: Find the mistake

28. **I was very happy yesterday.**
With I we use was, not were.
29. **They were at the museum on Friday.**
With they we use were, not was.
30. **Were you at home last night?**
With you we use were, also in questions.
31. **She was at the doctor's yesterday.**
Yesterday is past, so we use was, not is.
32. **We weren't hungry.**
With we the negative is weren't.
33. **Was the film long?**
The film = it, so the question starts with Was.

Exercise 6: Questions and short answers

34. Yes, I was.

The question asks one person (you), so the answer uses I was.

35. No, they weren't.

Sam and Mia = they, so the answer uses they weren't.

36. Yes, it was.

The museum = it, so the answer uses it was.

37. No, she wasn't.

Your sister = she, so the answer uses she wasn't.

38. Yes, we were.

You and Ben = we in the answer, so we use we were.

39. No, he wasn't.

Mr Brown = he, so the answer uses he wasn't.

Notes for teachers: Start by showing the rule: I/he/she/it + was, you/we/they + were. Then do Exercise 1 together as a warm-up. Common mistakes are 'I were', 'they was' and 'was you?', and some learners use 'is/are' with past time words like yesterday. As a follow-up, students can ask each other 'Where were you last Saturday?' and report back in pairs.