

Grammar reference

Unit 6

was/were: affirmative, negative, questions and short answers

+	I/He/She/It	was	hungry.
	We/You/They	were	
-	I/He/She/It	wasn't	weren't
	We/You/They	were	

?	Was	I/he/she/it	hungry?
	Were	we/you/they	
+	Yes,	I/he/she/it	was.
		we/you/they	were.
-	No,	I/he/she/it	wasn't.
		we/you/they	were

- Was and were are the past simple forms of be.
The door was red and the windows were green.
- To form yes/no questions, we use was/were before the subject. We don't use do.
Was the door blue? Were the windows red?
- To form Wh- questions, we put the question word before was/were.
What colour was the car? Where were you yesterday?

1 Choose the correct words.

- She was / were here at 8 am.
- We wasn't / weren't at the cinema.
- Why was / were Javier and Daniel late?
- I was / were at school yesterday.
- Where were / was you at 9.30?

2 Write questions with was/were. Answer them with short answers.

- your dad / with you? (X)
Was your dad with you? No, he wasn't.
- the film / good? (✓)
- you / at home / at 8 pm? (X)
- the city centre / busy / on Saturday? (✓)
- they / at the bowling alley / last night? (✓)

there was/were : affirmative, negative, questions and short answers

	Singular	Plural
+	There was a cinema here in the 1950s.	There were three shops here.
-	There wasn't a cinema here in the 1950s.	There weren't any shops here.

	Singular	Plural
?	Was there a cinema here in the 1950s?	Were there any shops?
+	Yes, there was.	Yes, there were.
-	No, there wasn't.	No, there weren't.

- There was and there were are the past simple forms of there is and there are.
There was a park and there were houses next to it.

Past simple regular verbs

+	I/You/He/She/It/We/They	played football yesterday.
-	I/You/He/She/It/We/They	didn't play football yesterday.

- We use the past simple to talk about completed events and actions in the past.
I tidied my room yesterday.
- We add -ed to regular verbs to form the past tense.
walk – walked
- When a verb ends in -y, we take off the y and add ied.
tidy – tidied

Past simple irregular verbs: affirmative and negative

- Some verbs are irregular in the past simple. They don't follow any pattern. (See page 130)
- We form the negative of the past simple with subject + didn't + infinitive

3 Complete the sentences with the past simple form of the verbs in the box.

escape walk start live stay

- We walked to school this morning.
- The class at 4.30.
- Twenty years ago, my parents in Spain.
- Last summer, we at my grandparents' house.
- Last week, a lion from the zoo.

ago

- We use ago with the past simple and a period of time to talk about when something happened in the past.
I went to the USA a year ago. He arrived an hour ago.

4 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

- saw / two weeks / I / him / ago
- two years / stayed / aunt / at my house / ago / my
- the cup / ago / My team / won / ten years
- ago / my homework / did / half an hour / I
- our class project / finished / We / ago / four days