

# Was and Were Exercises

Level: A1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Was and were: be in the past

Was and were are the past forms of am, is and are. Use them to talk about people and things at a past time.

**Choose the form:** Use was with I, he, she, it and one person or thing. Use were with you, we, they and two or more people or things.

**Negative:** Add not: was not (wasn't) or were not (weren't).

**Question:** Put was or were first: Was she at home? Were they late?

**There was / there were:** Use there was for one thing and there were for two or more: There was a cat. There were two cats.

**Short answer:** Was he there? Yes, he was. Were you tired? No, I wasn't.

## Exercise 1: Choose was or were

*Select the correct past form of be.*

1. My mother \_\_\_ at work yesterday.  
a) was    b) were    c) is
2. We \_\_\_ at the beach last Sunday.  
a) was    b) were    c) are
3. There \_\_\_ two books on the table.  
a) was    b) were    c) is
4. \_\_\_ your brother at home last night?  
a) Was    b) Were    c) Did
5. The shop \_\_\_ open yesterday. It was closed.  
a) was    b) wasn't    c) weren't

## Exercise 2: Fill the gaps

*Type was, were, wasn't or weren't. Use the clue in each sentence.*

6. I \_\_\_ very happy yesterday.
7. The children \_\_\_ at school last week.
8. There \_\_\_ a dog in the garden yesterday.
9. You \_\_\_ late. You came on time.
10. \_\_\_ they at the party?

### Exercise 3: Put the words in order

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*Select the parts in order to make a sentence or question.*

11. Put the words in the correct order: **you / Were / at home?**

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Put the words in the correct order: **one cat / There was / outside.**

\_\_\_\_\_

13. Put the words in the correct order: **were / They / happy.**

\_\_\_\_\_

14. Put the words in the correct order: **at school / She wasn't / yesterday.**

\_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise 4: Right or wrong?

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*Decide whether each English sentence is correct.*

15. They was at home yesterday. True / False

16. Was she tired last night? True / False

17. There were three chairs in the room. True / False

18. Were he at the party? True / False

# Answer key

## Exercise 1: Choose was or were

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1. a) was
2. b) were
3. b) were
4. a) Was
5. b) wasn't

## Exercise 2: Fill the gaps

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6. was
7. were
8. was
9. weren't / were not
10. Were

## Exercise 3: Put the words in order

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11. Were you at home?
12. There was one cat outside.
13. They were happy.
14. She wasn't at school yesterday.

## Exercise 4: Right or wrong?

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15. False
16. True
17. True
18. False