



# Was and Were: Past Simple of Be — A1 exercises

Printable worksheet · 23 questions · answer key with explanations on the last page  
virtuousenglishacademy.com/grammar/a1/was-and-were-exercises

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 23

## A. Multiple choice

10 questions

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- I \_\_\_\_ at home all evening yesterday.  
A) was    B) were    C) am    D) been
- They \_\_\_\_ very tired after the journey.  
A) was    B) is    C) been    D) were
- She \_\_\_\_ born in Kraków in 1992.  
A) was    B) were    C) is    D) been
- You \_\_\_\_ right about the weather.  
A) was    B) are was    C) been    D) were
- We \_\_\_\_ not at the meeting on Tuesday.  
A) was    B) were    C) wasn't were    D) been
- \_\_\_\_ the film any good?  
A) Were    B) Did    C) Was    D) Been
- \_\_\_\_ you at the concert last night?  
A) Was    B) Did    C) Were    D) Are
- It \_\_\_\_ very cold last winter.  
A) were    B) did    C) been    D) was
- Which sentence is correct?  
A) We were late.    B) We was late.    C) We did be late.    D) We been late.
- My parents \_\_\_\_ teachers before they retired.  
A) was    B) is    C) were    D) been

## B. Fill in the blank

8 questions

Write the missing word or words in the gap.

- I \_\_\_\_\_ at university in Lisbon in 2018.
- They \_\_\_\_\_ very kind to us during our stay.
- My grandmother \_\_\_\_\_ born in a small village.

4. You \_\_\_\_\_ absolutely right about the traffic.
5. We \_\_\_\_\_ at the beach all afternoon.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ the concert good on Saturday?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ you at work yesterday morning?
8. It \_\_\_\_\_ raining heavily when we left.

### C. Sentence building

5 questions

---

*Put the words in the correct order and write the sentence on the line.*

1. evening. / I / home / at / was / yesterday

*Say where you spent last night.*

---

2. the / flight. / after / They / tired / very / were

*Describe how travellers felt on arrival.*

---

3. in / was / born / Portugal. / She

*Say where a woman came into the world.*

---

4. at / the / concert? / you / Were

*Ask whether somebody attended a musical event.*

---

5. not / leave. / ready / We / were / to

*Explain that your group needed more time.*

---

# Answer key

---

*Every answer carries the reason behind it. Read the reason for the questions you got right as well — that is where you find out whether you were right for the right reason.*

## A. Multiple choice

---

1. **A) was** — I takes was in the past, even though it takes am in the present.
2. **D) were** — They is plural, so the past form is were.
3. **A) was** — A third-person singular subject takes was, and English states birth with be.
4. **D) were** — You always takes were in the past, whether it means one person or several.
5. **B) were** — We is plural, so the past form is were, and the negative simply adds not.
6. **C) Was** — The film is singular, and be makes its own question by moving to the front.
7. **C) Were** — You takes were, and no auxiliary is added to a question with be.
8. **D) was** — It is singular, so the past form is was.
9. **A) We were late.** — We is plural and therefore takes were, however common we was is in some dialects.
10. **C) were** — Parents is plural, so the past form is were.

## B. Fill in the blank

---

1. **was** — I takes was in the past, although it takes am in the present.
2. **were** — They is plural, so the past form of be is were.
3. **was** — A third-person singular subject takes was, and English states birth with be.
4. **were** — You always takes were in the past.
5. **were** — We is plural, so it takes were.
6. **Was** — The concert is one singular thing, so the question begins with was.
7. **Were** — You takes were, and be inverts by itself to make a question.
8. **was** — It is singular, so the past form is was.

## C. Sentence building

---

1. **I was at home yesterday evening.**
2. **They were very tired after the flight.**
3. **She was born in Portugal.**
4. **Were you at the concert?**
5. **We were not ready to leave.**