




22 Talking about the past

The past simple describes events that happened at a definite time in the past, or the state of things at a particular point in time.

-  **New language** The past simple of “to be”
- Aa Vocabulary** Jobs, town, and life events
-  **New skill** Talking about past states

22.1 KEY LANGUAGE THE PAST SIMPLE OF “TO BE”

Any action that happened and was completed in the past can be described in the past simple. The past simple of “to be” is “was” or “were.”

This is the present simple.
Jill is a businesswoman now. 
She was a student in 1985. 
This is the past simple. This is a definite time in the past.




22.2 HOW TO FORM THE PAST SIMPLE OF “TO BE”


The past simple of “to be” changes with the subject.


SUBJECT	“TO BE”	REST OF SENTENCE
I	was	a student.
You	were	
He / She / It	was	
We / They / You	were	students.


22.3 FURTHER EXAMPLES THE PAST SIMPLE OF “TO BE”


He was a doctor for 40 years. 

We were at the library yesterday. 

She was a Broadway star in the 1960s. 

There were lots of people at the party. 

There was a party last night. 

They were at the movies last week. 





22.4 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORD IN EACH SENTENCE

She **was** / ~~were~~ a teacher.

1 You **was** / **were** at the museum last week.

2 There **was** / **were** five people here yesterday.

3 The students **was** / **were** there on Monday morning.

4 My mom **was** / **were** an artist in the 1990s.

5 I **was** / **were** in college in 1989.

6 Sal and I **was** / **were** at the theater last night.

7 My dad **was** / **were** a builder until 1995.



22.5 READ THE EMAIL AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



To: Jules

Subject: Weekend in L.A.

How are you? I was in Los Angeles on the weekend. I was at Manhattan Beach. Do you know it? It was very hot and there were lots of people there. There are many cafés there, too. I was in a café called Ocean View and Malcolm was there. He was with a woman called Stacey. Is she his girlfriend?....
Annie x

Annie was in Los Angeles on the weekend.

True ☒ False ☐

1 She was at Manhattan Beach.

True ☐ False ☐

2 It was cold there.

True ☐ False ☐

3 She was at a café called Sea View.

True ☐ False ☐

4 Her friend Malcolm was with another man.

True ☐ False ☐



22.6 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND MATCH THE EVENTS TO THE YEARS

Chat Radio give the answers to their "That Was The Day" quiz.



1964

1



1497

2



1969

3



1994

4



1918

22.7 KEY LANGUAGE "WAS" / "WERE" NEGATIVES

As in the present simple, use "not" to form negative statements in the past simple.

He { **was not**
wasn't } a teacher in 2004.



They { **were not**
weren't } at the park yesterday.



You can contract these negatives to their short forms.

Add "not" after "was" or "were."



22.8 KEY LANGUAGE "WAS" / "WERE" QUESTIONS

To ask questions about the past using the verb "to be," swap the subject and verb.

He **was** in India.
Was he in India?

Swap the subject and "to be."

They **were** late for school.
Were they late for school?



22.9 FURTHER EXAMPLES "WAS" / "WERE" NEGATIVES AND QUESTIONS

I **wasn't** a good waiter.



Were there any cakes at the party?



There weren't any boats.



Was he good at playing tennis?



22.10 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORD IN EACH SENTENCE

He **wasn't** / ~~**weren't**~~ a doctor.

1 They **wasn't** / **weren't** very good at science.

2 I **wasn't** / **weren't** in Canada in 2002.

3 You **wasn't** / **weren't** at the party last night.

4 We **wasn't** / **weren't** in our house last year.

5 There **wasn't** / **weren't** a restaurant near the river.





22.11 WRITE QUESTIONS BASED ON THE STATEMENTS

There were some factories.

Were there any factories?

1 He was a good builder.

2 They were late this morning.

3 She was at a meeting yesterday.

4 You were happy in college.

5 We were in New Zealand for two weeks.

6 You were in the swimming pool.



22.12 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND MARK WHAT EACH BUILDING WAS USED FOR IN THE PAST

A tour guide is talking about
the history of some old buildings.

	 A <input type="checkbox"/>	 B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 C <input type="checkbox"/>
1	 A <input type="checkbox"/>	 B <input type="checkbox"/>	 C <input type="checkbox"/>
2	 A <input type="checkbox"/>	 B <input type="checkbox"/>	 C <input type="checkbox"/>
3	 A <input type="checkbox"/>	 B <input type="checkbox"/>	 C <input type="checkbox"/>
4	 A <input type="checkbox"/>	 B <input type="checkbox"/>	 C <input type="checkbox"/>



22.13 USE THE CHART TO CREATE 15 CORRECT SENTENCES AND SAY THEM OUT LOUD

*I was a student
last year.*

<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; width: 80px; margin: 0 auto;">I They</div> <p>Start with a pronoun.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 0 auto;">was were</div> <p>Choose the correct form of the verb.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; width: 120px; margin: 0 auto;">a student students in Australia good friends</div> <p>Choose a noun.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; width: 120px; margin: 0 auto;">last year. in 2008. for four years.</div> <p>Finish with a time.</p>
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22 CHECKLIST



The past simple of "to be" ☐

Aa Jobs, town, and life events ☐



Talking about past states ☐