



There was and There were — A1 exercises

Printable worksheet · 23 questions · answer key with explanations on the last page
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Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 23

A. Multiple choice

10 questions

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. ____ a small café on this corner ten years ago.
A) There were B) There was C) It was D) There is
2. ____ three cinemas in the town when I was young.
A) There was B) There were C) It were D) There is
3. ____ a lot of traffic on the motorway.
A) There were B) There was C) They were D) There are
4. ____ a lot of people at the concert.
A) There was B) There were C) It was D) There is
5. ____ any milk in the fridge this morning.
A) There weren't B) There wasn't C) There didn't D) It wasn't there
6. ____ many shops open on the holiday.
A) There wasn't B) There weren't C) There didn't D) It weren't
7. ____ a message for me while I was out?
A) Were there B) Was there C) Did there D) There was
8. ____ any tickets left at the box office?
A) Was there B) Were there C) Did there D) There were
9. Which sentence is correct?
A) There were a problem with the booking. B) There was a problem with the booking.
C) It were a problem with the booking. D) There have a problem with the booking.
10. ____ a lot of noise from the street last night.
A) There were B) There was C) They were D) There are

B. Fill in the blank

8 questions

Write the missing word or words in the gap.

1. There _____ a bakery on this street in my grandmother's day.
2. There _____ five people waiting in the corridor.
3. There _____ a lot of rain last weekend.

4. There _____ two supermarkets here before the new one opened.
5. There _____ any coffee left when I got to the kitchen.
6. There _____ many students in the library yesterday.
7. _____ there a message for me at reception?
8. _____ there any seats left on the train?

C. Sentence building

5 questions

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

1. There / a / was / square. / in / the / market

Describe one thing that used to exist in a town centre.

2. were / in / There / three / cinemas / town. / our

Describe several places that existed in the past.

3. lot / There / rain / was / a / yesterday. / of

Describe the weather using an uncountable noun.

4. station. / at / people / There / many / the / were

Describe a crowded place in the past.

5. for / me? / Was / a / there / message

Ask whether one note was left.

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. **B) There was** — A café is singular, so the verb after there is was.
2. **B) There were** — Three cinemas is plural, so the verb is were.
3. **B) There was** — Traffic is uncountable and therefore singular, so the verb is was.
4. **B) There were** — People is a countable plural, so the verb is were — even after a lot of.
5. **B) There wasn't** — Milk is uncountable and singular, so the negative is there wasn't.
6. **B) There weren't** — Shops is a countable plural, so the negative is there weren't.
7. **B) Was there** — A message is singular, and the verb moves in front of there to make a question.
8. **B) Were there** — Tickets is plural, so the question begins with were there.
9. **B) There was a problem with the booking.** — A problem is one singular thing, so the verb is was.
10. **B) There was** — Noise is uncountable and takes a singular verb.

B. Fill in the blank

1. **was** — A bakery is one singular thing, so the verb after there is singular too.
2. **were** — Five people is plural, so the verb is were.
3. **was** — Rain is uncountable and therefore takes a singular verb.
4. **were** — Two supermarkets is plural, so the verb is were.
5. **wasn't** — Coffee is uncountable and singular, so the negative is wasn't.
6. **weren't** — Students is a countable plural, so the negative is weren't.
7. **Was** — A message is singular, and the verb moves in front of there to form a question.
8. **Were** — Seats is a countable plural, so the question takes were.

C. Sentence building

1. **There was a market in the square.**
2. **There were three cinemas in our town.**
3. **There was a lot of rain yesterday.**
4. **There were many people at the station.**
5. **Was there a message for me?**