



# Was and Were: Past Simple of Be — 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. I \_\_\_\_ at home all evening yesterday.  
A) were      B) was      C) am      D) been
2. They \_\_\_\_ very tired after the journey.  
A) was      B) is      C) were      D) been
3. She \_\_\_\_ born in Kraków in 1992.  
A) were      B) is      C) was      D) been
4. You \_\_\_\_ right about the weather.  
A) was      B) were      C) are was      D) been
5. We \_\_\_\_ not at the meeting on Tuesday.  
A) was      B) were      C) wasn't were      D) been
6. \_\_\_\_ the film any good?  
A) Were      B) Was      C) Did      D) Been
7. \_\_\_\_ you at the concert last night?  
A) Was      B) Were      C) Did      D) Are
8. It \_\_\_\_ very cold last winter.  
A) were      B) was      C) did      D) been
9. Which sentence is correct?  
A) We was late.      B) We were late.      C) We did be late.      D) We been late.
10. 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.

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ at university in Lisbon in 2018.
2. They \_\_\_\_\_ very kind to us during our stay.
3. 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

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*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.*

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

*Describe how travellers felt on arrival.*

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

*Say where a woman came into the world.*

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

*Ask whether somebody attended a musical event.*

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

*Explain that your group needed more time.*

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# Answer key

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*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

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1. **B) was** — I takes was in the past, even though it takes am in the present.
2. **C) were** — They is plural, so the past form is were.
3. **C) was** — A third-person singular subject takes was, and English states birth with be.
4. **B) 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. **B) Was** — The film is singular, and be makes its own question by moving to the front.
7. **B) Were** — You takes were, and no auxiliary is added to a question with be.
8. **B) was** — It is singular, so the past form is was.
9. **B) 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

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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

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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.**