

# Be (past and present)

## A

The words **was** and **were** are the simple past forms of the verb be.

- **Was** is the simple past form of **am** and **is**. Use **was** with singular nouns like 'my dad' and 'the teacher', and with the pronouns I, he, she and it.
- **Were** is the simple past form of **are**. Use **were** with plural nouns like 'my parents' and 'Jenny and Mary', and with the pronouns we, you and they.

*Dinosaurs **were** prehistoric animals.*

*Ten years ago, I **was** only a baby.*

*When I **was** younger, I played with teddy bears.*

*My friend **was** ill yesterday.*

*Mom **was** angry when she saw the broken vase.*

*It **was** very wet on Monday.*

*It **was** six o'clock when we got home.*

*John and I **were** in the garden.*

*You **were** nasty to me!*

*You and Sally **were** not at school yesterday.*

*Those **were** my best jeans.*



## B

Here is a table to help you remember how to use **was** and **were**.

	singular	plural
<b>first person</b>	I was	we were
<b>second person</b>	you were	you were
<b>third person</b>	he was	they were
	she was	they were
	it was	they were

## C

You may use these contractions when you are combining **was** and **were** with not.

full form	short form
I was not	I wasn't
he was not	he wasn't
she was not	she wasn't
it was not	it wasn't
we were	not we weren't
you were	not you weren't
they were not they	weren't

**1) Put the verb "to be" into the simple past:**

- a) Yesterday, I \_\_\_\_\_ at the gym.
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ your aunt feeling better yesterday?
- c) I \_\_\_\_\_ a teacher until 1988.
- d) How old \_\_\_\_\_ you in 1997?
- e) He \_\_\_\_\_ at the beach house last week.
- f) We \_\_\_\_\_ in Morocco last year.
- g) He \_\_\_\_\_ at the bakery 2 hours ago
- h) My cousin \_\_\_\_\_ in her bedroom two hours ago.
- i) Two minutes ago I \_\_\_\_\_ happy.
- j) Ben \_\_\_\_\_ tired yesterday.
- k) Sue and I \_\_\_\_\_ busy in the morning.
- l) He \_\_\_\_\_ here at 6pm four week ago.
- m) Yesterday, they \_\_\_\_\_ in New York.
- n) Last Monday it \_\_\_\_\_ cloudy.
- o) To \_\_\_\_\_ or not to \_\_\_\_\_ this is the question.
- p) In 2001, you \_\_\_\_\_ the shortest kid in the school.



**2) Use the verbs below in the past continuous.**

**Wash Rain Play Ride Have Leave**

- a) Mr. O'Brian \_\_\_\_\_ the mountain bike.
- b) My parents \_\_\_\_\_ cards until midnight.
- c) They \_\_\_\_\_ dinner at the restaurant last night.
- d) Yesterday, it \_\_\_\_\_.
- e) Right now, they \_\_\_\_\_ the car.
- f) Kate \_\_\_\_\_ the party when I arrived.



**3) Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb "To be" in SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE or SIMPLE PAST TENSE.**

- a) Philip and John \_\_\_\_\_ at the party last night.
- b) The old house \_\_\_\_\_ made of wood. It \_\_\_\_\_ built in 1967.
- c) Christopher, where \_\_\_\_\_ you? Andrea told me you went to Guatemala.  
\_\_\_\_\_ that true? When \_\_\_\_\_ you coming back?
- d) Yesterday \_\_\_\_\_ the best day of my life!
- e) I \_\_\_\_\_ ready to go. When \_\_\_\_\_ we leaving?
- f) Who \_\_\_\_\_ coming to the beach with me?
- g) I \_\_\_\_\_ very tired. I \_\_\_\_\_ tired yesterday too. I think I \_\_\_\_\_ sick.

**4) Complete the gaps with "To be" in the present and past tense.**

I \_\_\_\_\_ driving to your house this morning when I hit a cow. Right after I hit it I called the police. They told me that it \_\_\_\_\_ not my fault because I didn't have enough time to stop. That made me feel a little better. But I \_\_\_\_\_ still very worried about it now. I hope the cow \_\_\_\_\_ okay. They told me it was going to live. I hope that it never happens again. It \_\_\_\_\_ terrible.

