

## UNIT 16 *Be* past simple

(*I was, I wasn't, Were you... ?*)

### A

The verb **be** in the past simple has two forms: **was, were**. There is no affirmative short form.

#### Affirmative

I was  
 You were  
 He / She / It was                      at home yesterday  
 We / You / They were

*I was on holiday in June.*  
*They were really interested in our project.*

### B

#### Negative

Full form	Short form	
I was not	I wasn't	
You were not	You weren't	at home yesterday
He / She / It was not	He / She / It wasn't	
We / You / They were not	We / You / They weren't	

Full form: Subject + **was / were + not**  
 Short form: Subject + **wasn't / weren't**

The short form is the most common.  
*The weather wasn't very good yesterday. We weren't ready yet.*

### C

Interrogative	Negative questions	
Was I	Wasn't I	
Were you	Weren't you	at home yesterday?
Was he / she / it	Wasn't he / she / it	
Were we / you / they	Weren't we / you / they	

Questions with the verb **be** in the past simple are formed using: **Was / Were** + subject (noun or pronoun)  
*Was it a good match? Were your parent happy with your exam results?*

### D

**Short answers** are formed using: **Yes, / No,** + subject pronoun + **was / were / wasn't / weren't**.  
*'Were you on the phone?' 'Yes, I was. I was speaking to Jo.'*

### E

**Wh- questions** are formed using: Question word + **was / were** + subject (noun or pronoun)  
*What was the weather like? Where were you?*

### F

The past simple of **be** is used to describe events or situations in the past.  
*It was a great party. But you weren't there.*  
*Marie Curie was a great scientist.*

The verb **be born** is usually used in the past as well.  
*'Where were you born?' 'I was born in Leeds.'*

### G

**There was / there were...**  
*'Were there many guests?' 'Yes, there were quite a few.'*

<b>Student's notes</b> ..... ..... .....
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**EXERCISES**  
Be past simple **UNIT 16**

NAME: student code      DATE: / /

LEVEL: CEFR L      TIME: -

**16.1 Complete the sentences with *was* or *were*.**

- 1 It ..... a lovely day.
- 2 We ..... at the beach.
- 3 I ..... under my sun umbrella.
- 4 The children ..... all happy.
- 5 The sun ..... hot.
- 6 Some people ..... very red!
- 7 My sister and I ..... relaxed.
- 8 The holiday ..... great!

**16.2 Rewrite the sentences using the negative form.**

- 1 Paul and Judy were on holiday. ....
- 2 The weather was bad. ....
- 3 The staff at the airport were very helpful. ....
- 4 The travel agent was busy. ....
- 5 They were in a self-catering apartment. ....
- 6 The sea was rough. ....
- 7 The guided tour was interesting. ....
- 8 The flight attendants were friendly. ....

**16.3 Use the words to write questions with the past simple of *be*. Then complete the short answers.**

- 1 you / on the flight / to London  
..... Yes, .....
- 2 they / tired / at the end of the trip  
..... No, .....
- 3 your friend / impressed / by the sights  
..... Yes, .....
- 4 it / a beautiful day  
..... No, .....
- 5 the tourists / annoyed / about the delay  
..... Yes, .....
- 6 you / pleased / with the accommodation  
..... No, .....
- 7 the hotel room / well equipped  
..... Yes, .....

**16.4 Look at the picture and write sentences with *There was / There were, There wasn't / There weren't* and with the words in the box.**

Bookshop   baker's   policemen   café   firemen   clothes shop

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....



Teacher's observations