

PAST OF BE



PRONOUNS	AFFIRMATIVE
I/SHE/HE/IT	WAS
WE/THEY/YOU/YOU	WERE

NEGATIVE	
I/SHE/HE/IT	WAS NOT WASN'T
WE/THEY/YOU/YOU	WERE NOT WEREN'T

	QUESTIONS	
WAS	I/SHE/HE/IT	?
WERE	WE/THEY/ YOU /YOU	?

ANSWERS
NO, HE/SHE/IT WAS NOT / WASN'T
NO, THEY/YOU/WE WERE NOT/ WEREN'T

ANSWERS
YES, I/SHE/ HE/IT WAS
YES, THEY/YOU/WE/YOU WERE

I WAS A FRENCH TEACHER SOME YEARS AGO

**I WAS NOT (WASN'T) FRENCH TEACHER SOME
YEARS AGO**

**WERE YOU A FRENCH TEACHER SOME YEARS
AGO?**

YES, I WAS

NO, I WAS NOT

**WE WERE IN COMFATOLIMA TWO YEARS AGO
WE WERE NOT IN COMFATOLIMA TWO YEARS AGO**

**HE WAS A STUDENT AT MIGUEL DE CERVANTES SCHOOL
HE WAS NOT A STUDENT AT MIGUEL DE CERVANTES SCHOOL**

**WAS NOT WASN'T
WERE NOT WEREN'T**

The verb *be* has two forms in the past: *was* and *were*.

EXAMPLES			EXPLANATION
Subject I Charles He Amelia She The airplane It	Was was	Complement interested in the story. a pilot. brave. a pilot too. popular. new in 1903. in the air for 12 seconds.	I He She It singular subject } <i>was</i>
Subject We You Amelia and Charles They	Were were	Complement interested in the story. in class yesterday. brave. adventurous.	We You They plural subject } <i>were</i>
There There	Was was	Singular Subject a celebration in 2003.	<i>There + was + singular noun</i>
There There	Were were	Plural Subject thousands of people.	<i>There + were + plural noun</i>
Charles Lindbergh was not the first person to fly. We were not at the 2003 celebration.			To make a negative statement, put <i>not</i> after <i>was</i> or <i>were</i> .
I wasn't here yesterday. You weren't in class yesterday.			The contraction for <i>was not</i> is <i>wasn't</i> . The contraction for <i>were not</i> is <i>weren't</i> .

- **Fill in the blanks below to complete the sentences. Use the words in the above boxes.**

1. A: Were you at home yesterday? B: Yes, I was.
2. They _____ really happy after they won the football game.
3. My sister _____ a college student last year.
4. Thomas _____ on the train at three-thirty yesterday afternoon.
5. A: _____ Jennifer tired after she finished work? B: No, she _____.
6. My car broke down, so I _____ late for my appointment.
7. A: _____ Laura and Susan surprised? B: No, they _____.
8. The cookies _____ delicious, so I ate three of them.
9. A: _____ you at the library yesterday? B: No, I _____.
10. Many dinosaurs _____ really huge.
11. I _____ born in 1996. When _____ you born?
12. The movie we saw last night _____ very funny.
13. I _____ a waiter last year, but I changed my job in September.
14. My favorite program _____ on TV at eight o'clock last night.
15. My classmates _____ in class. They were outside.

I **wasn't** here yesterday.
You **weren't** in class yesterday.

The contraction for *was not* is *wasn't*.
The contraction for *were not* is *weren't*.

EXERCISE 5 Fill in the blanks with *was* or *were*.

EXAMPLE Lindbergh and Earhart were very famous.

1. The Wright brothers _____ the inventors of the airplane.
2. The first airplane _____ in the air for 12 seconds.
3. Lindbergh and Earhart _____ aviators.
4. There _____ thousands of people in New York to welcome Lindbergh home.
5. Earhart _____ the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean.
6. I _____ interested in the story about Earhart and Lindbergh.
7. _____ you surprised that a woman was a famous aviator?
8. Lindbergh _____ in Paris.
9. We _____ happy to read about flight.
10. There _____ a celebration of 100 years of flight in 2003.
11. There _____ thousands of people at the celebration.

8.6 Questions with *Was/Were*

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
<p>Was the first flight long? No, it wasn't.</p> <p>Was the first flight successful? Yes, it was.</p> <p>Were the Wright brothers inventors? Yes, they were.</p>	<p>Yes/No Questions <i>Was/were</i> + subject . . . ?</p> <p>Short answers Yes, + subject + <i>was/were</i>. No, + subject + <i>wasn't/weren't</i>.</p>
<p>Were there a lot of people at the 100-year celebration? Yes, there were.</p> <p>Was there a lot of rain that day? Yes, there was.</p>	<p>There Questions <i>Was/were</i> + <i>there</i> . . . ?</p> <p>Short Answers Yes, there <i>was/were</i>. No, there <i>wasn't/weren't</i>.</p>
<p>How long was the first flight? Where was the first flight?</p>	<p>Wh- Questions <i>Wh-</i> word + <i>was/were</i> + subject . . . ?</p>
<p>Why wasn't Amelia successful? Why weren't you there?</p>	<p>Negative Questions <i>Why</i> + <i>wasn't/weren't</i> + subject . . . ?</p>
<p>Who was with Earhart when she disappeared? How many people were in the airplane?</p>	<p>Subject Questions <i>Who</i> + <i>was</i> . . . ? <i>How many</i> . . . + <i>were</i> . . . ?</p>

Compare affirmative statements and questions.

<i>Wh- Word</i>	<i>Was/Were</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Was/Were</i>	<i>Complement</i>	<i>Short Answer</i>
When	Was	Amelia	was	born before 1903.	Yes, she was.
	was	she		born in the U.S.?	In 1897.
	Were	Charles and Amelia	were	famous.	No, they weren't.
		they		inventors?	
		Someone	was	with Amelia.	A copilot.
		Who	was	with Amelia?	
		Many people	were	at the celebration.	
		How many people	were	at the celebration?	Thousands.

Compare negative statements and questions.

<i>Wh- Word</i>	<i>Wasn't/Weren't</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Wasn't/Weren't</i>	<i>Complement</i>
Why	wasn't	Air travel	wasn't	safe 100 years ago.
		it		safe?
Why	weren't	The Wright brothers	weren't	afraid of flying.
		they		afraid?

EXERCISE 7 Read each statement. Then write a *yes/no* question with the words in parentheses (). Give a short answer.

EXAMPLE The Wright brothers were inventors. (Lindbergh)

Was Lindbergh an inventor? No, he wasn't.

1. The airplane was an important invention. (the telephone)

2. Thomas Edison was an inventor. (the Wright brothers)

3. Amelia Earhart was American. (Lindbergh)

4. Travel by plane is common now. (100 years ago)

5. There were telephones 100 years ago. (airplanes)

6. You are in class today. (yesterday)

7. I was interested in the story about the aviators. (you)

PAST SIMPLE





THE MOUNTAINEER

As a child, Edurne Pasaban lived in the mountainous Basque region of Spain and she climbed her first mountain when she was fourteen. At university, she studied engineering but she didn't want a nine-to-five job. In May 2010 she finished her biggest challenge, to climb the world's fourteen tallest mountains. Nowadays she is famous for her many climbing achievements, However, she didn't climb in order to become famous. She says, 'For me, adventure is a way of life.'

THE ROAD TRIPPERS

Steven Shoppman and Stephen Bouey were old friends who grew up together in Denver. But they knew each other a lot better after their adventure. They both had an ambition to go on a road trip round the world. From 2007 to 2010, they drove through 69 different countries during their 122,000-kilometre journey and had many adventures. They took a big risk when they went across a minefield (see photo). They also got help from lots of people and they found that the world wasn't as dangerous as they thought!



road trip (n) /'rɔʊdtrɪp/
a long journey by road

▶ PAST SIMPLE

He climbed the mountain.
He didn't climb a mountain.
Did he climb a mountain?

For further information and practice, see page 159.

▶ PAST SIMPLE QUESTIONS

When were you born? In 1989.
What did you study at university? Economics.
Did you go abroad when you were young?
Yes, I did. / No, I didn't.

For further information and practice,
see page 159.

5 Find the past tense form of these irregular verbs
in *The road trippers* section of the article in Exercise 1.

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1 be | <u>was / were</u> | 6 grow up | |
| 2 drive | | 7 have | |
| 3 find | | 8 know | |
| 4 get | | 9 take | |
| 5 go | | 10 think | |

6 Complete the text about another adventurer with
the past simple form of the verbs.



THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Reza ¹ was born (be born) in Tabriz, Iran, in 1952. He
² (study) architecture at the university in Tehran
but he ³ (not / become) an architect. When he was
a teenager, Reza ⁴ (love) photography and, after
university, he ⁵ (get) a job with a local newspaper
as a photographer. But he ⁶ (not / want) to take
photos of local news and in 1978 he ⁷ (go) abroad
and he ⁸ (take) photos of wars. Nowadays he works
for *National Geographic* magazine.

8.2 Spelling of the Past Tense of Regular Verbs

RULE	BASE FORM	PAST FORM
Add <i>-ed</i> to most regular verbs.	start rain	started rained
When the base form ends in <i>e</i> , add <i>-d</i> only.	die live	died lived
When the base form ends in a consonant + <i>y</i> , change <i>y</i> to <i>i</i> and add <i>-ed</i> .	carry study	carried studied
When the base form ends in a vowel + <i>y</i> , add <i>-ed</i> . Do not change the <i>y</i> .	stay enjoy	stayed enjoyed
When a one-syllable verb ends in a consonant-vowel-consonant, double the final consonant and add <i>-ed</i> .	stop hug	stopped hugged
Do not double a final <i>w</i> or <i>x</i> .	show fix	showed fixed
When a two-syllable verb ends in a consonant-vowel-consonant, double the final consonant and add <i>-ed</i> only if the last syllable is stressed.	occur permit	occurred permitted
When the last syllable of a two-syllable verb is not stressed, do not double the final consonant.	open offer	opened offered

EXERCISE 2 Write the past tense of these regular verbs. (Accent marks show you where a word is stressed.)

EXAMPLES learn learned
love loved

clap clapped
listen listened

1. play _____
2. study _____
3. decide _____
4. want _____
5. like _____
6. show _____
7. look _____
8. stop _____
9. happen _____
10. carry _____

11. enjoy _____
12. drag _____
13. drop _____
14. start _____
15. follow _____
16. prefer _____
17. like _____
18. mix _____
19. admit _____
20. propel _____

8.3 Pronunciation of *-ed* Past Forms

PRONUNCIATION	RULE	EXAMPLES	
/t/	Pronounce /t/ after voiceless sounds: /p, k, f, s, š, č/	jump—jumped cook—cooked cough—coughed	kiss—kissed wash—washed watch—watched
/d/	Pronounce /d/ after voiced sounds: /b, g, v, d, z, ž, ĵ, m, n, ŋ, l, r/ and all vowel sounds.	rub—rubbed drag—dragged love—loved bathe—bathed use—used massage—massaged charge—charged	name—named learn—learned bang—banged call—called care—cared free—freed
/əd/	Pronounce /əd/ after /d/ or /t/ sounds.	wait—waited hate—hated want—wanted	add—added decide—decided

Read the following textbook article. Pay special attention to past-tense verbs.

Did You Know?

The first woman in space was a Russian, Valentina Tereshkova, in 1963.



Robert Goddard with early rocket, 1926

Robert Goddard was born in 1882. When he was a child, he became interested in firecrackers and thought about the possibility of space travel. He later became a physics professor at a university. In his free time, he built rockets and took them to a field, but they didn't fly. When he went back to his university after his failed attempts, the other professors laughed at him.

In 1920, Goddard wrote an article about rocket travel. He believed that one day it would be possible to go to the moon. When

The New York Times saw his article, a reporter wrote that Goddard had less knowledge about science than a high school student. Goddard wanted to prove that *The New York Times* was wrong.

In 1926, he built a ten-foot rocket, put it into an open car, and drove to his aunt's nearby farm. He put the rocket in a field and lit the fuse. Suddenly the rocket went into the sky. It traveled at 60 miles per hour (mph) to an altitude of 41 feet. Then it fell into the field. The flight lasted 2½ seconds, but Goddard was happy about his achievement. Over the years, his rockets grew to 18 feet and flew to 9,000 feet in the air. No one made fun of him after he was successful.

When Goddard died in 1945, his work did not stop. Scientists continued to build bigger and better rockets. In 1969, when the American rocket Apollo 11 took the first men to the moon, *The New York Times* wrote: "The Times regrets⁶ the error."



Astronaut Buzz Aldrin of Apollo 11 on the moon, 1969