



“TO BE” PAST TENSE

The past tense of the verb “**To Be**” is: **was** and **were**. We use **was** with the following personal pronouns: I – He – She – It. We use **were** with the following personal pronouns: We – You – They. The negative form of was is: **was + not = wasn’t** and the negative form of were is: **were + not = weren’t**. See the chart below.

I was	I wasn’t
You were	You weren’t
He was	He wasn’t
She was	She wasn’t
It was	It wasn’t
We were	We weren’t
They were	They weren’t

We use these forms when we want to use the verb “To Be” in the past to describe; location, professions, marital status, age, feelings.

EXPRESSION OF TIME IN PAST

Expressions of time with the word yesterday	Expressions of time with the word Last	Expressions of time with the word ago
Yesterday morning	Last night	One second ago
Yesterday afternoon	Last week	Five minutes ago
Yesterday evening	Last month	Twenty years ago
The day before yesterday	Last year	One million years ago

SUBJECT	+ TO BE IN PAST TENSE	+ COMPLEMENTIZER	+ EXPRESSION OF PAST TIME
I	was	in the restaurant	last night.
You	were	sick	yesterday.
He	was	in Italy	two years ago.
She	was	upset	last night.
It	was	cold	last night.
We	were	happy at the party	last Friday.
They	were	in love	a long time ago.

Examples:

Statement: They were teachers ten years ago.
Question: Were they teachers ten years ago?
Affirmative answer: Yes, they were teachers ten years ago.
Negative answer: No, they weren't teachers ten years ago.

Statement: Mike was here yesterday afternoon.
Question: Was Mike here yesterday afternoon?
Affirmative answer: Yes, Mike was here yesterday afternoon.
Negative answer: No, Mike wasn't here yesterday afternoon.



Statement: Betty was born on March 25th 1990.
Question: Was Betty born on March 25th 1990?
Affirmative answer: Yes, She was born on March 25th 1990.
Negative answer: No, she wasn't born on March 25th 1990.

Statement: We were single last year.
Question: Were you single last year?
Affirmative answer: Yes, we were single last year.
Negative answer: No, we weren't single last year.

Statement: Peter was sick three days ago.
Question: Was Peter sick three days ago.
Affirmative answer: Yes, Peter was sick three days ago.
Negative answer: No, Peter wasn't sick three days ago.



Use the correct past tense of “to be” to fill in the blanks.

1. He _____ the manager of that company two years ago.
2. Charles _____ sick last week.
3. Patty _____ in love with that guy last summer.
4. They _____ on the same plane that I was.
5. George Washington _____ president of the United States of America.
6. The U.S.S.R _____ a powerful country.
7. It _____ Tuesday the day before yesterday.
8. When _____ your birthday?
9. The children _____ asleep when we got home.
10. I _____ 15 years old in 1970.
11. Lunch _____ excellent.
12. Betty _____ here in the morning.
13. Who _____ the man in the black suit?
14. What _____ it?
15. Where _____ you yesterday?
16. All of the students _____ at the meeting.
17. Charles and Peter _____ in Mexico last vacation.
18. My mother and my aunt _____ at home playing bridge.
19. Susie _____ in high school 10 years ago.
20. The teacher _____ alone yesterday, nobody came.