

English Grammar Class 3

Was and Were

In the following chapter, we are going to learn the use of was and were in various types of sentences. The distinction between the verbs and where is often unclear to individuals.

Was/Were

- Was/were usage can occasionally spark a heated argument, but there are precise guidelines for doing so. We'll look at several instances of sentences that employ the terms were and where in addition to discussing when to use them.
- Being is an irregular verb, meaning that its conjugation does not adhere to any set norms or patterns. Undoubtedly one of the most often used and most perplexing verbs in the English language is the verb to be. Understanding when to utilize the tenses and where can be particularly challenging.
- Both the first person singular past tense and the third person singular past The past tense of the verb to be in the second person singular and plural, as well as the first and third person plural, is were.
- In some circumstances, it might be difficult to tell when to use was or was. When using the words there were or there was falls within the first category.

Vedantu
Learn LIVE Online

Image: Was

Use of "was".

"Was" is used with singular nouns, i.e. I, he, she, it, etc.

It is used with sentences in the past tense.

Example.

- I **was** in the market.
- He **was** unavailable.
- She **was** a great person.
- Suman **was** a fantastic teacher.

Use of "were"



Image: Were

"Were" is used with plural nouns, i.e. you, we, they, etc. It is used with sentences in the past tense.

Exception: were is used with I in case of imaginary or hypothetical situations.

For example, If I were you I would have taken it.

Examples:

- You **were** so good on stage.
- We **were** dealing with it.
- They **were** planning to post it.
- The children **were** doing their stuff.

Rules for using was/were.

- Using was,

Subject(singular)+**was**+verb+object.

- Using were,

Subject(plural)+**were**+verb+object.

Vedantu
Learn LIVE Online

Image: Were vs Was

The difference between was and were

Was	Were
It is used for singular forms of nouns and pronouns.	It is used for plural forms of nouns and pronouns.
The pronouns here are I, he, she, it, etc.	The pronouns used here are you, we, they, etc.

Difficult Word Meaning

Word	Meaning
Unavailable	Busy
Stunning	Surprising
Merely	Only
Melodious	Pleasant
Announcing	Mass informing

Summary

Using the former when the subject is singular and the latter when the subject is plural will help you distinguish between the words "was" and "were." The be a form of the past tense is "was," which is used with 1st and 3rd person singular subjects.

Practice Questions.

Fill in the gaps with was/were.

1. He ___ singing.
2. I ___ ready for it.

3. They _____blamed for it.
4. She_____ the one responsible.
5. Harish_____doing the unpredictable.
6. The girls_____wearing those high heels.
7. They_____already there.
8. It_____merely an accident.
9. There_____ no use in hiding now.
- 10.It_____becoming difficult to tolerate.
- 11._____they ready to leave?
- 12._____I the only one invited?
- 13.You_____the organizer of that event.
- 14.We_____going to do the impossible.
- 15.Dhvani___singing a melodious song.
- 16.The dog_____ in its kennel, when I arrived.
- 17.There_____many unwanted packages.
- 18.I _____to shoot this before.
- 19.The design_____not working.
- 20.When _____ we going to start the trip?

Answers:

1. He **was** singing.
2. I **was** ready for it.
3. They **were** blamed for it.
4. She **was** the one responsible.
5. Harish **was** doing the unpredictable.
6. The girls **were** wearing those high heels.
7. They **were** already there.

8. It **was** merely an accident.
9. There **was** no use in hiding now.
10. It **was** becoming difficult to tolerate.
11. **Were** they ready to leave?
12. **Was** I the only one invited?
13. You **were** the organizer of that event.
14. We **were** going to do the impossible.
15. Dhvani **was** singing a melodious song.
16. The dog **was** in its kennel when I arrived.
17. There **were** many unwanted packages.
18. I **was** to shoot this before.
19. The design **was** not working.
20. When **were** we going to start the trip?

Change the following Sentences from present to Past tense using was/were.

1. **I am assigned some work.**
2. **You are trying to annoy me.**
3. **They are announcing his engagement.**
4. **There are many reworks needed in the program.**
5. **The guests are arriving now.**
6. **She is worried about her mother's health.**
7. **He is affected by his past.**
8. **The cat is found here.**
9. **The journey is beginning.**
10. **Living is a stunning way of making life easier.**

Answers:

1. I **was** assigned some work.
2. You **were** trying to annoy me.
3. They **were** announcing his engagement.
4. There **were** many reworks needed in the program.
5. The guests **were** arriving then.
6. She **was** worried about her mother's health.
7. He **was** affected by his past.
8. The cat **was** found there.
9. The journey **was** beginning.
10. Living **was** a stunning way of making life easier.