GrammarError.com

Basics: Past Forms of the Verb "To Be": Was vs. Were

Easy | A1 | Elementary | Beginners | Be | Person | Past tense | Verb | Questions | Negation | English Grammar Basics

1. Choose the correct word to finish this frantic text message.

Sorry I missed the meeting! I ___ completely convinced it was on Thursday.

Select one.

A) were
B) are
C) was
D) be

2. Complete the disappointed foodie's restaurant review.

The pizza ___ so burnt that I used a slice as a frisbee.

Select one.

A) was
B) were
C) is
D) are

3. Help the detective complete her case notes by choosing the correct past tense verb for each blank.

The suspect _____ at the coffee shop at 8 PM.
However, his two best friends _____ at the cinema during the robbery.
I _____ highly suspicious of his entire story!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) were
B) was
C) are

Blank 2

A) was
B) were
C) is

Blank 3

A) were
B) was
C) am

4. Help the homeowner describe a bizarre late-night discovery.

To my surprise, the raccoons ___ having a polite tea party in my garbage can.

Select one.

A) was
B) were
C) be
D) are

5. Help the paranormal investigator select ALL the grammatically correct sentences for her official report.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The ghosts were surprisingly polite.
- **B)** The vampire and the werewolf were playing chess.
- **C)** The ghost were eating my sandwich.
- **D)** The haunted armor was squeaking loudly.
- **E)** The haunted armors was dancing.

6. The chef is making excuses for the terrible dinner. Select ALL the grammatically correct excuses from his list.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The potatoes wasn't cooked enough.
- **B)** The soup wasn't salty at all.
- **C)** The carrots weren't fresh.
- **D)** The chicken weren't ready.
- **E)** I wasn't paying attention to the oven.

7. Complete the traveler's diary entry about a rather unglamorous camping trip.

Unfortunately, the weather _____ absolutely terrible all weekend. My best friend and I _____ freezing in our tiny tent while the wind howled outside. It _____ definitely not the relaxing vacation we had planned!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** was
- **B)** were
- **C)** is

Blank 2

- **A)** was
- **B)** were
- **C)** am

Blank 3

- **A)** was
- **B)** were
- **C)** be

8. Help the detective finish her report about the Great Cookie Heist by choosing the correct verb forms.

When I arrived at the kitchen counter, the cookie jar _____ completely empty. The prime suspects _____ my two roommates, who both had chocolate on their faces. I _____ absolutely shocked that they didn't save me a single crumb!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** was
- **B)** were
- **C)** am

Blank 2

- **A)** was
- **B)** were
- **C)** are

Blank 3

- **A)** were
- **B)** was
- **C)** been

9. Complete the detective's dramatic interrogation question.

Where ___ you on the night the world's largest cookie went missing?

Select one.

- **A)** was
- **B)** were
- **C)** is
- **D)** are

10. Complete the student's text message explaining why he missed the epic weekend party.

Tell me the truth, _____ the party as fun as everyone says? I _____ able to make it because my car broke down on the highway. Worse yet, my parents _____ home to give me a ride!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** was
- **B)** were
- **C)** did

Blank 2

- **A)** wasn't
- **B)** weren't
- **C)** didn't

Blank 3

- **A)** wasn't
- **B)** weren't
- **C)** isn't

11. Complete the camper's hilarious online review of a disastrous trip by choosing the right word for each gap.

The weather _____ absolutely terrible all weekend.
The mosquitoes _____ the size of small birds.
We _____ so happy to finally pack up and go home!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** were
- **B)** was
- **C)** is

Blank 2

- **A)** was
- **B)** were
- **C)** are

Blank 3

- **A)** was
- **B)** were
- **C)** be

12. An overly curious neighbor is interrogating you about a loud party next door. Select ALL the questions that are grammatically correct.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Were the musicians playing jazz?
- **B)** Was the guests dancing on the roof?
- **C)** Was the music too loud?
- **D)** Were you awake the whole time?
- **E)** Was you invited to the celebration?

13. Help the grumpy ghost finish his diary entry about the "good old days." Choose the correct past tense verb for each blank.

My haunted mansion _____ much scarier in the 1800s.
The cobwebs _____ thicker, and the floors creaked loudly.
You humans _____ easily frightened back then, but modern people just take selfies with me!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
- **A)** were
- **B)** was
- **C)** is

Blank 2
- **A)** was
- **B)** were
- **C)** are

Blank 3
- **A)** was
- **B)** were
- **C)** be

14. Fill in the blanks to complete this reviewer's slightly confused restaurant review.

When I first walked in, there _____ three pigeons sitting on my table! Thankfully, there _____ a brave waiter nearby to shoo them away. The food _____ delicious, but the atmosphere _____ a little too wild for my taste.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
- **A)** were
- **B)** was
- **C)** are

Blank 2
- **A)** were
- **B)** was
- **C)** is

Blank 3
- **A)** were
- **B)** was
- **C)** be

Blank 4
- **A)** were
- **B)** was
- **C)** are

15. The time traveler's machine broke, and his diary is missing some words! Select ALL the subjects that correctly complete his entry.

"Luckily, _____ were completely unaware that I was from the year 3024."

Select all that apply.
- **A)** the medieval knights
- **B)** they
- **C)** the king
- **D)** the villagers
- **E)** the local blacksmith