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# 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.
From the start, 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