

**1 You use was (negative was not or wasn't) as the past of am and is with:**

A noun group: He was a good student, now he's a teacher.

My favourite book when I was a child was Robinson Crusoe.

An adjective: My grandfather was very tall.

I wasn't happy.

An expression of time or place: It was three o'clock.

He was at school in 1989.

An expression of age: He was twenty in June.

She was nineteen when she married.

**2 You use were (negative were not or weren't) as the past of are in the same way as was:**

Dear Sue,

We're in Florida now.

We were in Miami  
yesterday. The weather  
was fantastic.

We were on the beach all  
afternoon.

Love,




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**3 You can use was, were, wasn't and weren't for questions:**

Were you here yesterday?

Who was that man?

You walked fifty kilometres – weren't you tired?

When did we arrive? Wasn't it on Friday?

**4 Exercise: Complete this chart by filling in the blank boxes:**

	Present	Past (positive)	Past (negative)	Past (question)
I	<i>am busy</i>	<i>was busy</i>	<i>wasn't busy</i>	<i>Was I busy?</i>
He				<i>Was he there?</i>
She		<i>was angry</i>		
It	<i>is cold</i>			
We				<i>Were we late?</i>
You	<i>are sad</i>			
They			<i>weren't at home</i>	

**A Match the questions with these answers:**

I was in town.

I was in bed, but I wasn't asleep.

No, I was fine, but my brother was ill.

It was really hot.

No, I was with a friend.

1 A: Where were you yesterday at 3 p.m.?

B: \_\_\_\_\_

2 A: Were you alone?

B: \_\_\_\_\_

3 A: What was the weather like yesterday?

B: \_\_\_\_\_

4 A: Were you ill last week?

B: \_\_\_\_\_

5 A: Were you in bed asleep at midnight?

B: \_\_\_\_\_

**B Now write your real answers to the same questions.****C The pictures show a room before and after a robbery.**Complete the sentences with *was* or *were* with the following objects:1 The vase \_\_\_\_\_ on the table  
on the right.2 The video recorder \_\_\_\_\_  
under the television.3 The paintings \_\_\_\_\_ on the  
wall behind the desk.4 The books \_\_\_\_\_ on the  
shelf near the door.5 The camera \_\_\_\_\_ on the  
desk.**D Are these statements true or false? Correct the false statements:**

1 Margaret Thatcher is the Prime Minister of Britain. \_\_\_\_\_

2 Charlie Chaplin was a famous musician. \_\_\_\_\_

3 Cities are smaller now than in 1900. \_\_\_\_\_

4 The world record for the 100 metres sprint is 10 seconds. \_\_\_\_\_

5 Istanbul was the capital of Turkey before Ankara. \_\_\_\_\_

6 Latin is the most useful international language. \_\_\_\_\_

**E Complete the sentences using *was*, *wasn't*, *were* or *weren't*:**

1 'Where \_\_\_\_\_ you yesterday?' 'I \_\_\_\_\_ ill so I stayed at home.'

2 I left school when I \_\_\_\_\_ 17 and started university when I \_\_\_\_\_ 18.

3 The film we saw last week \_\_\_\_\_ terrible.

4 'What \_\_\_\_\_ the weather like yesterday?' 'Oh, it \_\_\_\_\_ terrible.'

5 'We've just finished the exercise.' ' \_\_\_\_\_ it difficult?'

6 I called the Packers half an hour ago but they \_\_\_\_\_ in.