

The Past Simple with "be"

Positive with 'be'	Negative with 'be'	Negative Short Form
I was cold.	I was not sleepy.	I wasn't sleepy.
You were tired.	You were not on the bus.	You weren't on the bus.
He was in the garden.	He was not at school.	He wasn't at school.
He was late.	He was not ugly.	He wasn't ugly.
It was rainy.	It was not hot.	It wasn't hot.
We were on holiday.	We were not at work.	We weren't at work.
They were hungry.	They were not tired.	They weren't tired.

Past Simple

We use the past simple:

- a) for an action which happened at a definite time in the past. The time is stated, already known or implied.



They **went** camping by the lake last month. (When did they go camping? Last month. The time is stated.)

- b) for actions which happened immediately one after the other in the past.



First she **paid** the driver, then she **got out** of the taxi.

- c) for past habits or states which are now finished. In such cases we can also use the expression *used to*.



Kitchens **were/used to be** very different a hundred years ago.

The past simple is used with the following time expressions: *yesterday, then, when, How long ago ...?, last night/week/month/year/Tuesday, etc., three days/weeks, etc. ago, in 1997, etc.*

Past Simple with 'Be' - Positive and Negative Form

Make the past simple positive or negative.

1. It _____ (be) cold yesterday.
2. She _____ (be) hungry.
3. We _____ (be) late for the meeting.
4. I _____ (be) tired last night.
5. The exam _____ (be) difficult.
6. They _____ (be) in Berlin.
7. You _____ (be) in the library when I called you.
8. The holiday _____ (be) fun.
9. He _____ (be) early for the interview.
10. The people we met last night _____ (be) French.
11. That woman _____ (not / be) Spanish.
12. Julie _____ (not / be) late for the class.
13. The food _____ (not / be) very good.
14. They _____ (not / be) my uncle and aunt.
15. I _____ (not / be) rude to the waitress.
16. The test _____ (not / be) easy.
17. We _____ (not / be) tired when we arrived.
18. They _____ (not / be) on the bus when I called.
19. You _____ (not / be) here when she came.
20. He _____ (not / be) my boyfriend.



Past Simple with 'Be' Question Forms

Make past simple 'yes / no' or 'wh-' questions.

1. (John / be / at the party?)

2. (you / be / tired yesterday?)

3. (the weather / be / good?)

4. (we / be / too noisy?)

5. (he / be / a doctor when he was young?)

6. (they / be / in the class last week?)

7. (she / be / a good student?)

8. (I / be / on time?)

9. (Julie and Lucy / be / at the meeting?)

10. (we / be / in Paris?)

11. (where / you / be?)

12. (what / that noise / be?)

13. (who / that man / be?)

14. (how / the weekend / be?)

15. (where / the money / be?)



16. (why / the door open / be?)

17. (who / the teacher / be?)

18. (how / your holiday / be?)

19. (what / the weather like / be?)

20. (why / the children awake / be?)



Past Simple with 'Be'

Make the past simple.

1. (I / be / at the cinema last night.)

2. (the children / be / naughty?)

3. (we / be / in a cafe when you called.)

4. (I / be / late?)

5. (she / be / a teacher when she was young.)

6. (where / we / be?)

7. (you / be / okay?)

8. (we / be / too tired?)

9. (how / the party / be?)

10. (they / be / late for the interview.)

11. (you / be / in the garden.)

12. (what / his name / be?)

13. (it / not / be / cold.)

14. (she / be / beautiful?)

15. (she / not / be my wife at the time.)



16. (he / be / hungry.)

17. (why / you / be / late?)

18. (you / not / be / early.)

19. (they not / be / in love.)

(we / not / be / in China.)

Resources:

1. Grammarway 4 Jenny Dooley Virginia Evans International Edition, Espresso Publishing
2. <https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/grammar-exercises.html>