ПРАКТИЧНА ЛЕКЦИЈА

Be - Past Simple

Категорија на лекцијата: Mësimet në gjuhë angleze

> Learn was and were for past states, ages, locations, weather and feelings. Includes full conjugation, negatives with wasn't and weren't, questions, short answers, there was / there were, and past time expressions.

Be – Past Simple (was, were)

The past simple of **be** is far simpler than the present: there are only two forms, **was** and **were**. You use them to describe how things were at a finished time in the past — where someone was, how they felt, what the weather was like, how old they were. Because **be** is an auxiliary in its own right, it needs no help from *did*.

Learning objectives

- Choose correctly between **was** and **were**.
- Form negatives with **wasn't** and **weren't**.
- Ask questions by inverting the subject and the verb.
- Give correct short answers.
- Use **there was** and **there were**.
- Recognise the past time expressions that signal this tense.

Meaning and usage

Use	Example
Past identity or job	*She **was** a teacher for ten years.*
Past description	*The film **was** excellent.*
Past age	*I **was** seven when we moved.*
Past location	*We **were** at the beach yesterday.*
Past feelings and states	*They **were** very tired after the trip.*
Past weather and time	*It **was** cold last night.*
Background in a story	*It **was** late and the streets **were** empty.*

The affirmative form

Subject	Form	Example

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I	was	*I was at home.*
you	were	*You were right.*
he	was	*He was late.*
she	was	*She was happy.*
it	was	*It was cold.*
we	were	*We were ready.*
they	were	*They were at work.*

The rule in one line: **I, he, she, it → was**; **you, we, they → were**. Note that *you* takes *were* even when it refers to one person.

The negative form

Subject	Full form	Contraction	Example
I / he / she / it	was not	wasn't	*She **wasn't** at school.*
you / we / they	were not	weren't	*They **weren't** ready.*

There are no other contractions here: unlike the present, you cannot write *I'd not* or similar. Only **wasn't** and **weren't** exist.

Questions and short answers

Question	Positive answer	Negative answer
Were you at the party?	Yes, I was.	No, I wasn't.
Was she your teacher?	Yes, she was.	No, she wasn't.
Was it expensive?	Yes, it was.	No, it wasn't.
Were they at home?	Yes, they were.	No, they weren't.

Wh- questions follow the same inversion: ***Where were** you last night? **Why was** he late? **How old were** you then?*

There was and there were

Form	Used with	Example
There was	singular and uncountable	***There was** a small shop on the corner.*
There were	plural	***There were** hundreds of people.*
There wasn't / weren't	negatives	***There wasn't** any milk. **There weren't** any tickets left.*
Was there ...? / Were there ...?	questions	***Was there** a problem? **Were there** many guests?*

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Signal words and time expressions

These expressions point clearly to the past simple: **yesterday**, **last night / week / month / year**, **two days ago**, **in 2019**, **when I was young**, **at that time**, **then**, **this morning** (if the morning has finished).

Be or do in the past?

	With be	With another verb
Positive	She **was** tired.	She **worked** late.
Negative	She **wasn't** tired.	She **didn't work** late.
Question	**Was** she tired?	**Did** she work late?
Short answer	Yes, she **was**.	Yes, she **did**.

A comparison with the present

Present	Past
I **am** a student.	I **was** a student.
He **isn't** here.	He **wasn't** here.
Are they ready?	**Were** they ready?
There are two chairs.	**There were** two chairs.

Formal and informal usage

- **Wasn't** and **weren't** are normal in speech and informal writing; formal writing prefers *was not* and *were not*.
- In unreal or hypothetical sentences, formal English uses **were** for every subject: *If I **were** you, I would apologise.* In everyday speech *If I was you* is very common, but *were* is safer in exams and formal writing.

Common mistakes

Mistake	Correct	Why
Did you were at home?	**Were you at home?**	*be* never takes *did*
She didn't was here.	**She wasn't here.**	same reason
You was late.	**You were late.**	*you* always takes *were*
There were a problem.	**There was a problem.**	singular noun
I was born in 1998 written as *I born in 1998*	**I was born in 1998.**	*be born* always needs *be*
Yes, I was not.	**No, I wasn't.**	a negative answer starts with *No*

Learning tips

1. Learn the split as a pair: *was* goes with the three singular pronouns plus *I*; *were* goes with the rest.

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2. Describe a photograph from your childhood out loud. It forces you to use *was, were, there was, there were* naturally.
3. Whenever you write *did* next to *was* or *were*, delete the *did*.

Summary checklist

- Did I use **was** for *I, he, she, it* and **were** for *you, we, they*?
- Did I avoid *did* completely?
- Is my question formed by inversion?
- Does **there was / there were** agree with the noun?
- Is there a past time expression that justifies the tense?

Shpjegim në gjuhën shqipe

Rregulli i anglishtes, i shpjeguar në shqip

Në kohën e shkuar folja **be** ka vetëm **dy forma**: *was* për *I, he, she, it* dhe *were* për *you, we, they*. Vini re se *you* merr gjithmonë *were*, edhe kur i drejtohet një personi të vetëm.

Mohimi bëhet me *was not* dhe *were not*, të shkurtuara në **wasn't** dhe **weren't**. Nuk ka forma të tjera të shkurtuara. **Pyetja** ndërtohet me përmbysje: *Were you at home?* Folja *be* nuk merr kurrë *did*.

Kjo kohë përdoret për gjendje, përshkrime, moshë, vendndodhje dhe rrethana në një çast të mbyllur të së shkuarës. Ajo shërben shpesh si sfond i një rrëfimi: *It was late and the streets were empty.*

Ndërtimi **there was / there were** tregon se diçka ekzistonte. Folja përshtatet me emrin që vjen pas saj, jo me fjalën *there*: *There **was** a shop*, por *There **were** many people*.

Ekuivalenti në gjuhën shqipe

Format angleze **was** dhe **were** mbulojnë dy kohë të ndryshme të shqipes: **të pakryerën** (*isha, ishe, ishte*) dhe **të kryerën e thjeshtë** (*qeshë, qe*). Prandaj një formë e vetme angleze mund të përkthehet në dy mënyra, sipas kuptimit.

Ekuivalenti i formave

Anglisht	Shqip	Shembull
I was	unë isha	*I was at home.* — Isha në shtëpi.
you were	ti ishe	*You were right.* — Ti kishe të drejtë.
he / she / it was	ai / ajo ishte	*She was tired.* — Ajo ishte e lodhur.
we were	ne ishim	*We were ready.* — Ne ishim gati.
they were	ata / ato ishin	*They were late.* — Ata ishin vonë.
there was	kishte	*There was a shop.* — Kishte një dyqan.
there were	kishte	*There were many people.* — Kishte shumë njerëz.

Vini re: te *there was* dhe *there were* shqipja përdor gjithmonë **kishte**, pa e ndryshuar sipas numrit. Anglishtja e ndryshon.

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Përshtatja e kohëve

Anglisht	Shqip	Kuptimi
I was ill yesterday.	Dje **isha** i sëmurë.	gjendje e vazhduar
He was born in 1998.	Ai **lindi** në vitin 1998.	ngjarje e vetme; shqipja përdor foljen *lind*
It was cold last night.	Mbrëmë **ishte** ftohtë.	përshkrim rrethanash

Ku ndryshojnë dy gjuhët

- **Një formë kundrejt dyve.** Anglishtja ka *was/were*; shqipja zgjedh midis së pakryerës dhe së kryerës së thjeshtë sipas kuptimit.
- **I lindur.** Anglishtja e ndërton me *be*: *I **was** born*. Shqipja përdor foljen e plotë: **Unë linda.** Ky është një përkthim që gabohet shpesh.
- **Mohimi.** *She wasn't here* = **Ajo nuk ishte këtu** — *nuk* para foljes.
- **Pyetja.** Anglishtja e përmbys rendin (*Were you …?*); shqipja shton pjesëzën **a** ose ndryshon vetëm intonacionin: **A ishe …?**

Gabime të zakonshme të folësve të shqipes

Gabimi	E saktë	Pse
I born in 1998.	**I was born in 1998.**	anglishtja e kërkon *be*
You was late.	**You were late.**	*you* merr gjithmonë *were*
Did you were at home?	**Were you at home?**	*be* nuk merr *did*
There were a problem.	**There was a problem.**	emri është në njëjës
Yesterday I have been ill.	**Yesterday I was ill.**	koha e mbyllur kërkon të shkuarën e thjeshtë

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