PART 3 The Verb Be: Past

UNIT 7 The Past of Be: Statements, Yes/No Questions

Were you alone?

Grammar in Context

Listen and read the conversation.

Today (April 15)

[Phone rings]

KATHY: Hello?

AMANDA: Hi, Kathy. This is Amanda.

KATHY: Hi, Amanda. How's it going?

AMANDA: Fine. Hey, Josh and I stopped by your house last night, but you weren't there. Or were you asleep?

KATHY: Actually, I wasn't home last night. I was at a movie.

AMANDA: Were you alone?

KATHY: Uh, no. I was with . . . someone. The movie was great. Really exciting. And funny too.

AMANDA: Really! What movie was it?

KATHY: Frankenstein's Uncle.

Grammar in Context

New grammar points are shown the way they naturally occur in a variety of dialogues and readings.
Words and Expressions

Do you know these words and expressions? Write new words and expressions in your notebook.

alone asleep funny exciting

1. A: Hi, Kathy. This is Amanda.
   B: Hi, Amanda. How’s it going?
   A: Fine.

2. A: We stopped by your house last night, but you weren’t there.
   B: Actually, I wasn’t home last night. I was at a movie.

With a Partner

A. Practice the conversation with a partner.

B. Now look at the pictures. Talk about the movies. Use was and were.

Example:

Matt Damon and Robin Williams were in the movie Good Will Hunting. Matt Damon was Will Hunting. Robin Williams was Sean McGuire.

Starring Matt Damon as Will Hunting and Robin Williams as Sean McGuire.

Starring Leonardo DiCaprio as Jack Dawson and Kate Winslett as Rose DeWitt Bukater.

Starring Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker, Carrie Fisher as Princess Leia, and Harrison Ford as Han Solo.

Grammar in Context

New grammar points are shown the way they naturally occur in a variety of dialogues and readings.
## Grammar Presentation
### The Past of *Be*: Statements, Yes/No Questions

#### Affirmative Statements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past Form</th>
<th><em>Be</em> Form</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>was</em></td>
<td><em>were</em></td>
<td>I <em>was</em> at a movie last night.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>We <em>were</em> at a party yesterday.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>You <em>were</em> wonderful in the play.</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>was</em></td>
<td><em>were</em></td>
<td>He <em>was</em> at home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>You and Ryan <em>were</em> both wonderful.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>was</em></td>
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<td>She <em>was</em> at the gym.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>They <em>were</em> at the soccer game.</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>was</em></td>
<td><em>were</em></td>
<td>It <em>was</em> hot.</td>
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</table>

#### Negative Statements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past Form</th>
<th><em>Be</em> Form</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>was not</em></td>
<td><em>were not</em></td>
<td>I <em>was not</em> at home last night.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>You <em>weren't</em> in class yesterday.</td>
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<td><em>were not</em></td>
<td>He <em>wasn't</em> at a movie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>They <em>weren't</em> at the library yesterday.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>was not</em></td>
<td><em>were not</em></td>
<td>It <em>wasn't</em> cold yesterday.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### Yes/No Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Was</em> I right?</td>
<td>Yes, you <em>were</em>.</td>
<td>No, you <em>weren’t</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Was</em> he at home?</td>
<td>Yes, he <em>was</em>.</td>
<td>No, he <em>wasn’t</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Was</em> she at the game?</td>
<td>Yes, she <em>was</em>.</td>
<td>No, she <em>wasn’t</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Was</em> it cold yesterday?</td>
<td>Yes, it <em>was</em>.</td>
<td>No, it <em>wasn’t</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Were</em> we right?</td>
<td>Yes, you <em>were</em>.</td>
<td>No, you <em>weren’t</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Were</em> you at home?</td>
<td>Yes, I <em>was</em>.</td>
<td>No, I <em>wasn’t</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Were</em> you <em>were</em>?</td>
<td>Yes, we <em>were</em>.</td>
<td>No, we <em>weren’t</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Were</em> they at a movie?</td>
<td>Yes, they <em>were</em>.</td>
<td>No, they <em>weren’t</em>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Notes

1. The past of *be* has two forms: *was* and *were*.
   - I *was* at a movie last night.
   - The girls *were* at the library yesterday.

2. Use *was* or *were + not* to make negative statements.
   - I *was not* alone.
   - You *were not* at home.

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**Grammar Presentation**

The clear, accessible grammar charts present the grammar forms in a simple format. Notes and examples increase student comprehension.
3. Use the contractions wasn’t and weren’t in speaking and informal writing.
   - I wasn’t alone.
   - You weren’t at home.

4. To ask a yes / no question, put was or were before the subject.
   - Was the movie interesting?
   - Were you alone at the movie?

5. Use a pronoun and was, wasn’t, were, or weren’t in short answers.
   - A: Was Mary at the library yesterday?
   - B: Yes, she was.
   - A: Were your friends at home last night?
   - B: No, they weren’t.

**Focused Practice**

1. **Discover the Grammar**

   A. Read Grammar in Context again. Underline the past forms of be. Circle the subjects.

   **Example:**
   . . . (you) weren’t there.

   B. Match the questions and answers.
   - 1. Were you at home yesterday?  a. No, it wasn’t. The music was pretty bad.
   - 2. Was Ryan in class yesterday?  b. Yes, she was. We were both there.
   - 3. Was the concert good?  c. Yes, it was. Matt Damon is a great actor.
   - 4. Was the movie interesting?  d. No, I wasn’t. I was at a concert.
   - 5. Was Susan at the library yesterday?  e. No, he wasn’t. He was sick.

2. **Who Was in That Movie?**

   **Grammar Notes 1–3**

   Look at the movie posters on page 45. Complete the sentences with was, wasn’t, were, or weren’t.

   1. Matt Damon and Robin Williams ___________ in Good Will Hunting. They ___________ in Titanic.
   2. Kate Winslett ___________ in Titanic. She ___________ in Star Wars.
   3. Carrie Fisher and Harrison Ford ___________ in Star Wars, but they ___________ in Good Will Hunting.

**Focused Practice**

Students are encouraged to Discover the Grammar for themselves. They are challenged to use the target structures in a variety of controlled exercises that progress from simple to more complex.
Look at the pictures. Where were these people last night? Complete the sentences. Use *was* or *were*.

1. Last night, Tim and Jessica ______________________________.
2. Mary, Annie, and Ben ____________________________________.
3. Jeremy _________________________________________________.
4. Mark ____________________________________________________.
5. Bill and Steve ____________________________________________.
6. Judy ____________________________________________________.

Correct the note from Kathy. There are seven mistakes.

Mark,

Sorry I **wasn't** home last night. I **was** at a basketball game. Amanda and Josh **was** with me. It **were** really exciting.

Where were you on Tuesday afternoon? Susan, Brent, and I **are** at the soccer game, but you were there. That's too bad. It is really exciting.

I'll talk to you soon. Call me.

Kathy

A variety of exercises provide students with opportunities to practice each target structure in creative and interactive ways. Now students can use grammar as a tool for conveying meaning.
Communication Practice

5 What’s the Message?

Listen to the message on the answering machine. Check (✓) True, False, or No Information.

1. Mark is at home now.
2. Josh was at the movies last night.
3. Amanda was at home last night.
4. Josh was alone at the movies.
5. The movie was very long.
6. The movie was Tarzan.

True False No Information

Yesterday

Work with a partner. Answer the questions. Give more information.

1. Were you late to class yesterday?
2. Were you at a concert yesterday?
3. Were you at home last night?
4. Were you at the library yesterday?
5. Were you at a movie last night?
6. Were you at school yesterday?

Example:
A: Were you late to class yesterday?
B: I was. The bus was late.

7 Talk about an Event

Tell a partner about a movie, a play, a concert, or a game. How was it? Use the following words.

Example:
A: You weren’t home last night (last Sunday / yesterday / etc.).
B: No, I was at a movie. The Sixth Sense.
A: Was it good?
B: Yes! It was exciting—and scary.
Complete the conversations. Circle the correct letter.

1. **AMANDA:** Where were you last night?
   **KATHY:**
   (A) Yes, I was.  
   (B) At a movie.  
   (C) Were you alone?  
   (D) For two hours.

2. **MARK:** Was she at the gym?
   **STEVE:**
   (A) No, she was.  
   (B) Yes, she was.  
   (C) Who was at the gym?  
   (D) No, they weren't.

3. **KATHY:** Where were you?
   **AMANDA:**
   (A) Sorry I wasn't home last night.  
   (B) Were you at home?  
   (C) Are you at the gym?  
   (D) Mark and I are at a soccer game.

4. **JASON:** How long were you there?
   **MARK:**
   (A) Fine, thanks.  
   (B) By car.  
   (C) Yesterday.  
   (D) Four days.

5. **JASON:** It was cool.
   **MARK:**
   (A) How was the weather?  
   (B) How are you?  
   (C) How long was it?  
   (D) Where were you?

6. **JASON:** No, I wasn't. I was alone on a tour.
   **MARK:**
   (A) Were you with friends?  
   (B) How were you?  
   (C) Where were you?  
   (D) What movie was it?

7. **AMANDA:** It was scary.
   **KATHY:**
   (A) How long was the movie?  
   (B) How is the movie?  
   (C) How was the movie?  
   (D) Who was in the movie?

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II. Complete the conversations. Use was, were, wasn’t, weren’t, I, you, he, she, it, and they in your answers.

1. **A:** Was I right?
   **B:** Yes, ___________ were.

2. **A:** Was it hot in Mexico City?
   **B:** No, __________. It was cool.
3. A: Were they in Madrid?
   B: No, ________ __________. They were in Barcelona.

4. A: Were you at home?
   B: Yes, ________ __________ at home all day.

5. A: Was Tom Hanks in Saving Private Ryan?
   B: Yes, ________ __________.

6. A: Was your aunt in Hawaii?
   B: No, ________ ________ in Fiji.

III. Complete the questions about a photo. Use the words in the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How</th>
<th>How long</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Who</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A: ________ Who’s that woman?</td>
<td>A: ________ ________ were you there?</td>
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<tr>
<td>B: My sister.</td>
<td>B: Last year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A: ________ is she?</td>
<td>A: ________ ________ were you there?</td>
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<tr>
<td>B: In Bryce.</td>
<td>B: Three days.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>A: ________’s Bryce?</td>
<td>A: ________ ________ was the weather?</td>
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<tr>
<td>B: It’s a national park in Utah. We were there with her on a family vacation.</td>
<td>B: Hot.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

IV. Complete the letter from Judy to her family. Use the present or past of be.

Hi Everyone,

   Last week ________ terrible. It ________ exam week. My friends and I ________ ________ at the library every day. But this week is easy. We ________ ________ free to read and relax. No homework, no exams.


   Send my love to Grandma and Grandpa.

   Love,

   Judy

To check your answers, go to the Answer Key on page 282.