

Teens: Past tense of 'to be' worksheet [Teachers Notes]

This worksheet uses structures and vocabulary from Sky 2 Unit 11. It contains three simple graded exercises. In the first exercise, students must select the correct sentences. In the second exercise, students select the correct words to complete the sentences. In the third exercise, students see a sentence with a mistake and then write the correct sentence.

A) Look at these pairs of sentences. One sentence has a mistake. One sentence is correct. Underline the correct sentence. Look at the example.

0]

- a) Elvis Presley were an American singer.
- b) Elvis Presley was an American singer.

1]

- a) Sherlock Holmes was a famous detective.
- b) Sherlock Holmes were a famous detective.

2]

- a) Agatha Christie wasn't a dancer. She is a writer.
- b) Agatha Christie wasn't a dancer. She was a writer.

3]

- a) Mozart and Beethoven were composers.
- b) Mozart and Beethoven was composers.

4]

- a) Mrs Beckham were one of the Spice Girls.
- b) Mrs Beckham was one of the Spice Girls.

5]

- a) Was John Lennon a scientist? No, he isn't.
- b) Was John Lennon a scientist? No, he wasn't.



6]

- a) Were Christopher Columbus and Michelangelo Italians? Yes, they were.
- b) Were Christopher Columbus and Michelangelo Italians? Yes, they was.

7]

- a) Where is Albert Einstein born? He is born in Germany.
- b) Where was Albert Einstein born? He was born in Germany.

8]

- a) Was Anna Pavlova and Rudolph Nureyev ballet dancers? Yes, they was.
- b) Were Anna Pavlova and Rudolph Nureyev ballet dancers? Yes, they were.

9]

- a) John Lennon wasn't a Rolling Stone. He was a Beatle.
- b) John Lennon didn't a Rolling Stone. He does a Beatle.

10]

- a) The animals weren't hungry. They were thirsty.
- b) The animals not were hungry. They were thirsty.

B) Underline the correct words in these sentences. Look at the example.

0] The red flowers | are | is | were | on the table.

1] Billie Holiday | were | was | weren't | a famous singer.

2] Frédéric Chopin | wasn't | weren't | isn't | French, he was Polish.

3] Frank Sinatra | is | was | were | an American singer.

4] When | was | were | is | Mozart born?

5] | Weren't | Was | Isn't | Rudolph Nureyev a dancer or a singer?

6] | Were | Was | Did | Marilyn Monroe a famous actress? Yes, she was.

7] | Was | Wasn't | Were | the Wright brothers American inventors?

8] How old | was | were | are | you last year?

9] | Is | Were | Was | Sandra and Alice at school yesterday?

10] Giuseppe Verdi | was | are | is | born in Italy in 1813.

C) Correct the mistakes in these sentences. Look at the example.

- 0) Where ~~was~~ you yesterday?
Where were you yesterday?
- 1) Marie Curie ~~were~~ a Polish scientist.
Marie Curie was a Polish scientist.
- 2) ~~Are~~ you at school yesterday?
Were you at school yesterday?
- 3) Was Charles Dickens an American writer? No, he ~~isn't~~.
Was Charles Dickens an American writer? No, he wasn't.
- 4) Who ~~was~~ Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers?
Who were Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers?
- 5) Napoleon ~~were~~ born in Corsica.
Napoleon was born in Corsica.
- 6) How old ~~are~~ you in 2002?
How old were you in 2002?
- 7) ~~Is~~ John Lennon one of the Spice Girls? No, he wasn't.
Was John Lennon one of the Spice Girls? No, he wasn't.
- 8) How many students ~~was~~ in your class yesterday?
How many students were in your class yesterday?
- 9) Mrs Henderson ~~were~~ my favourite teacher.
Mrs Henderson were my favourite teacher.
- 10) Mohamed Ali ~~weren't~~ a great singer.
Mohamed Ali wasn't a great singer.

