

1º ANO

SEMANA 23

Simple Past Tense of the verb "be"

Subject	Present	Past
I	am	was
We	are	were
You		
They		
He	is	was
She		
It		

POSITIVE

I	was	famous.
You	were	
He / She / It	was	
We	were	
You	were	
They	were	

NEGATIVE

I	wasn't	famous.
You	weren't	
He / She / It	wasn't	
We	weren't	
You	weren't	
They	weren't	

INTERROGATIVE

Was	I	famous?
Were	you	
Was	he / she / it	
Were	we	
Were	you	
Were	they	

Verb be: simple past

1. Study these examples and complete the following statements.

Instiguo os alunos a observar as palavras destacadas nas frases.

Villa-Lobos's father *was* a librarian and an amateur musician.

Computers and technology *were* major obsessions in the life of Steve Jobs.

- a) _____ are the two forms of the *verb be* in the simple past.
- b) In affirmative statements, *was* and *were* come _____ the subject.
- c) "Villa-Lobos's father" can be replaced by the pronoun _____.
- d) "Computers and technology" can be correctly replaced by the pronoun _____.

2. Analyze the information below and then complete the rules for the simple past of the *verb be*.

Affirmative form

I/he/she/it was

You/we/they were

Negative form

I/he/she/it was not (wasn't)

You/we/they were not (weren't)

Interrogative form

Was I/he/she/it...?

Were you/we/they...?

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Were you/we/they...?

In affirmative sentences, the past forms of the *verb be* are used _____ the subject. In negative sentences, _____ is added to the *verb be* forms, which come _____ the subject as well. In questions, the past forms of the *verb be* are placed right _____ the subject.

Pay attention!

- Information questions begin with the interrogative pronouns followed by the past forms of the *verb be*.
Where were you last night? *Who was* the most famous cubist painter?
- The expression *be born* is often used in its simple past form.
They *were born* in 1945. She *was born* in the USA.
- In affirmative short answers, DO NOT use contracted forms. Contracted forms are only possible in negative short answers.
Were you at the party last night?
Yes, I was. / No, I wasn't.

3. Read the following information about some world personalities and fill in the blanks with the simple past of the verb *be* and *be born*. Then, listen and check your answers.  Track 17.

a)



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Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi _____ on October 2, 1869 in Porbandar, India. He attended university in London and graduated in Law. In 1893, he went to South Africa where he fought against discriminatory policies. In 1914, he returned to India, where he became the leader of the Indian National Congress. He _____ a major political and spiritual leader and his non-violent civil disobedience campaign led to Indian independence.

Source: BIO. *Mahatma Gandhi*. Available at: <<http://www.biography.com/people/mahatma-gandhi-9305898#spiritual-and-political-leader>>. Accessed on: 17 Sept. 2014.

b)

Agnes Bojaxhiu _____ in Skopje (current capital of Macedonia). Her parents _____ devoted Catholics. When she _____ 8 years old, her father died of unknown causes. At 18, she decided to become a nun and joined the Loreto Sisters of Dublin. It _____ in Ireland that she took the name of



Getty Images/Francois LOCHON/Gamma-Rapito

Source: BIO. *Mother Teresa*. Available at: <<http://www.biography.com/people/mother-teresa-9504160#early-life>>. Accessed on: 17 Sept. 2014.



c)



Magdalena Carmen Frida Kahlo y Calderon _____ on July 6, 1907 in Coyoacan, Mexico. Kahlo planned to become a doctor, but she didn't finish her studies because of a severe accident that changed her life forever. After the accident, she started painting. She _____ 22 years old when she met Diego Rivera, the famous Mexican muralist. They _____ married in 1929 and they _____ both active members of the Mexican Communist Party.

Source: FRIDA KAHLO FOUNDATION. *Frida Kahlo biography*. Available at: <<http://www.frida-kahlo-foundation.org/biography.html>>. Accessed on: 17 Sept. 2014.

4. Based on the excerpts read in previous activities, answer the following questions.

a) Was Mother Teresa born in India?

b) Who was a college dropout?

c) Where was Mandela from?

d) Who was the leader of civil disobedience in India?

e) When was the Montgomery bus boycott in Alabama?

5. Now, write questions for the following answers.

Steve Jobs was adopted in San Francisco.

b) _____

No, he wasn't. Picasso was a famous painter.

c) _____

Heitor Villa-Lobos was 72 years old when he died.

d) _____

Jobs and Rosa Parks were from the USA.

e) _____

Kahlo was born in Mexico.

6. Now, research a world personality you admire and write sentences using the following structures.

6. Após finalizarem a atividade, peça a alguns alunos que leiam suas frases. Copie-as na lousa e trabalhe as posições de *was/were* com a turma.