

09 Past simple questions

Questions in the past simple are formed using "did." For past simple questions with "be," the subject and the verb "was" or "were" are swapped around.

See also:

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9.1 QUESTIONS IN THE PAST SIMPLE

Use "did" plus the base form of the verb to ask a question in the past simple.

In the statement the main verb is in the past simple.

They **bought** a new car.

Did they **buy** a new car?

"Did" goes before the subject.

The main verb is in its base form.



She **visited** her parents last week.

Who did she visit last week?

You can add question words to ask open questions.

HOW TO FORM



FURTHER EXAMPLES

Did they have a good time?



Did you read a book on the beach?



Did Ray drink all the milk?



Where did she meet her friends?



Add question words to make open questions.

When did he go to the gym?



Why did you buy so much food?



9.2 QUESTIONS IN THE PAST SIMPLE WITH "BE"

To make a question using the verb "be" in the past simple, swap the order of the subject and "was" or "were."

In a statement, the subject comes before the verb.

She was excited.

You were excited.

Was she excited?

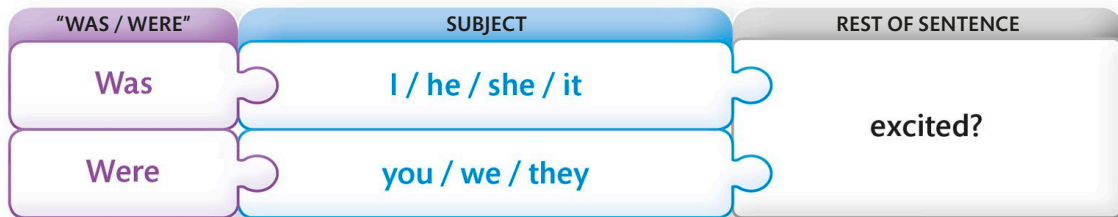
Were you excited?



In a question, the verb and the subject swap places.

The subject comes after the verb.

HOW TO FORM



FURTHER EXAMPLES

Was he good at playing tennis?



Was there any cake at the party?



Were they surprised by you?



Were we the last ones to arrive?



Why was she late for the party?



What were the lectures about?



Add question words to make open questions.

What was that song called?



What was the weather like?

