

Patina · Grammar

I Am · I Was

now · before

You know **am**, **is** and **are**. Today the same verb goes back in time: **was** and **were**. The sentences do not change. Only the small word does, and a time word at the end says when.

★ now and before · ★★ how to build it, then the time words · ★★★ then and now · ★★★★★ choose the form, ask and answer, fix it

★ I am. I was.

Two cards. The same sentences, now and before. Only the small word changes.

NOW**now**

am / is / are + a job

I **AM** a cook. 🗣️She **IS** a nurse. 🗣️They **ARE** drivers. 🗣️**BEFORE****before**

was / were + a job

I **WAS** a cook in 2020. 🗣️She **WAS** a nurse last year. 🗣️They **WERE** drivers before. 🗣️I was **A** cook. 🗣️

Say a before a job. Your language has no word there.

I **WAS** born in _____. 🗣️

You will say this at your citizenship interview. Fill it with a place or a year.

★★ How to build it

Start with the subject. Then choose was or were.

was / were + a job · a word · a place

I **WAS** a cook. 🗣️

She **WAS** a cook. 🗣️

They **WERE** cooks. 🗣️

I	-----	was	🗣️
You	-----	were	🗣️
He/She/It	-----	was	🗣️
We	-----	were	🗣️
They	-----	were	🗣️

Start with the subject. I, he, she and it take was. Everyone else takes were.

FULL FORM

SHORT FORM

I **was not** 🗣️

I **wasn't**

You **were not** 🗣️

You **weren't**

He/She/It **was not** 🗣️

He/She/It **wasn't**

We **were not** 🗣️

We **weren't**

They **were not** 🗣️

They **weren't**

Add not. The short forms are wasn't and weren't.

★★ When?

These words say the time. Put one at the end of the sentence.

yesterday	She was at work YESTERDAY . 🗣️
last night	I was tired LAST NIGHT . 🗣️
last week	We were in class LAST WEEK . 🗣️
last month	They were in Florida LAST MONTH . 🗣️
last year	He was a student LAST YEAR . 🗣️
in 2019	I was a cashier IN 2019 . 🗣️
from 2019 to 2022	She was a nurse FROM 2019 TO 2022 . 🗣️
★★★ two years ago	You were in Haiti TWO YEARS AGO . 🗣️

Say last night. Not yesterday night.

Say last week. Not the last week.

★★ Then and now

Four people from Job Words. Read the job now, then the job before.



Luis **IS** a cook now. 🗣️

He **WAS** a dishwasher in 2020. 🗣️



Ana **IS** a nurse now. 🗣️

She **WAS** a home health aide last year. 🗣️



Sam **IS** a driver now. 🗣️

He **WAS** an engineer before. 🗣️



Elena **IS** a pharmacist now. 🗣️

She **WAS** a cashier before. 🗣️

★★★ Choose the form

Look at the subject and the last words. Type am, is, are, was, or were. Then put the whole sentence in the chat.

am is are was were

1 She _____ a nurse last year.

2 I _____ a student now.

3 They _____ at work yesterday.

4 We _____ tired now.

5 He _____ a cook in 2020.

6 It _____ cold last night.

7 You _____ in class last week.

8 You _____ my teacher now.

★★★ Ask, then answer

Watch the verb move. In a question it jumps to the front. In the answer it comes back.

She **was** a cook. 🗣️

→ **Was** she a cook? 🗣️

→ Yes, she **was**. 🗣️
No, she **was not**. 🗣️

You **were** at work. 🗣️

→ **Were** you at work? 🗣️

→ Yes, I **was**. 🗣️
No, I **was not**. 🗣️

They **were** tired. 🗣️

→ **Were** they tired? 🗣️

→ Yes, they **were**. 🗣️
No, they **were not**. 🗣️

The answer repeats was or were. Never use did with this verb.

★★★ Make it a question

Make it a question. Move the verb to the front and type the whole question.

He was a driver.

1

They were at school.

2

You were tired.

3

★★★ Fix the sentence

Each sentence is broken in one place. Keep every word and change only what is broken.

1

X I was cook.

Say a before a job.

2

X She were a nurse.

With she, say was.

3

X We was tired last night.

With we, say were.

4

X I was a cashier the last year.

No the before last.

5

X They were tired yesterday night.

Say last night.

6

X Did you was a cook?

Not did. This verb asks with were.

Patina

Patina English · Class 16 · Sheet

Suggest a correction or improvement