

Activity Type

Interactive reading and writing exercises

Language Focus

Verb 'to be'

is, am, are

was, were

Aim

To practice the past and present simple of the verb 'to be'.

Preparation

Send each student a copy of the interactive worksheet.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

This verb 'to be' interactive worksheet helps students to practice the past and present simple of the verb 'to be': am, are, is, was and were as well as their negative forms.

Procedure

Students begin with a present simple verb 'to be' gap-fill exercise where they complete sentences with am, is, are, isn't or aren't. Each word is used twice in the text.

Exercise A - Answer key

- | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 1. are | 3. is | 5. is | 7. am | 9. aren't |
| 2. aren't | 4. isn't | 6. isn't | 8. are | 10. am |

Students then do a past simple verb 'to be' gap-fill exercise where they complete sentences with was, were, wasn't or weren't. Each word is used twice in the text.

Exercise B - Answer key

- | | | | |
|---------|------------|---------|------------|
| 1. were | 3. wasn't | 5. was | 7. wasn't |
| 2. was | 4. weren't | 6. were | 8. weren't |

Students then move on to answer yes/no comprehension questions about the two texts using the verb 'to be'.

Exercise C - Answer key

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. No, they aren't. | 4. No, he isn't. | 7. No, she wasn't. |
| 2. Yes, she is. | 5. Yes, they are. | 8. No, they weren't. |
| 3. Yes, he is. | 6. Yes, she was. | |

Next, students complete another text with the correct form of the verb 'to be' in brackets to practice both past and present verb 'to be' forms.

Exercise D - Answer key

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|------------|-----------|
| 1. were | 5. were | 9. is | 13. isn't |
| 2. isn't | 6. was | 10. were | 14. was |
| 3. are | 7. is | 11. wasn't | |
| 4. was | 8. are | 12. is | |

To finish, students imagine that they are Robert and Sally's cousin. The students then write an email to one of them using the verb 'to be' forms from the worksheet. When the students have finished, have them read their emails and provide feedback.