



Answers

1. a) was
2. c) were
3. a) wasn't
4. d) Was
5. b) were
6. d) was
7. c) weren't
8. b) Were
9. a) was
10. d) were
11. c) is
12. b) were
13. a) was
14. c) Were
15. d) was
16. a) were
17. b) aren't
18. c) was
19. d) weren't
20. b) Was ... was



Explanations

1. “was” (a)

'A big tree' is singular, and 'when I was a child' tells us this is past tense, so we use 'was'. There was a big tree in our garden when I was a child.

2. “were” (c)

'Many shops' is plural, and 'twenty years ago' is past, so we use 'were'. There were many shops on this street twenty years ago.

3. “wasn't” (a)

'Milk' is uncountable (treated as singular), and 'yesterday' is past, so we use 'wasn't'. There wasn't any milk in the fridge yesterday.

4. “Was” (d)

'A park' is singular. We use 'Was there...?' to ask about something in the past. Was there a park near your old school?

5. “were” (b)

'Three cats' is plural, and 'last night' is past, so we use 'were'. There were three cats in the garden last night.

6. “was” (d)

'Traffic' is uncountable (singular). 'But it's much better now' tells us the heavy traffic was in the past, so we use 'was'. There was a lot of traffic this morning.

7. “weren't” (c)

'Students' is plural, so the negative form is 'weren't'. There weren't any students in the classroom when I arrived.

8. “Were” (b)

'Many people' is plural, so we use 'Were there...?' to form the question. Were there many people at the party last Saturday?

9. “was” (a)

'A cinema' is singular. 'It closed five years ago' confirms this is past tense. There was a cinema in this town.

10. “were” (d)

'Books' is plural, and 'last week' is past, so we use 'were'. There were some interesting books on the shelf last week.

11. “is” (c)

The supermarket opened last month and still exists now, so we describe its current state with present tense 'is'. There is a supermarket on the corner.

12. “were” (b)

'Two dogs and a cat' is plural (more than one animal), and 'old house' implies the past. We use 'were'. There were two dogs and a cat in their old house.

13. “was” (a)

'Snow' is uncountable (singular), and 'last winter' is past, so we use 'was'. There was a lot of snow last winter.

14. “Were” (c)

'Problems' is plural, so we use 'Were there...?' There were/weren't any problems.

15. “was” (d)

'A good film' is singular, and 'last night' is past, so we use 'was'. There was a good film on TV last night.

16. “were” (a)

'About thirty children' is plural, and 'at primary school' refers to the past, so we use 'were'.

17. “aren't” (b)

'Restaurants' is plural, and 'we need to drive' tells us this is the current situation (present), so we use 'aren't'.
There aren't any restaurants in this village.

18. “was” (c)

'A letter' is singular. 'This morning' combined with 'Did you see it?' means the event is complete (past), so we use 'was'.

19. “weren't” (d)

'Buses' is plural, and 'so we took a taxi' confirms past tense. We use 'weren't'. There weren't any buses after midnight.

20. “Was ... was” (b)

'A swimming pool' is singular. 'Last year' tells us this is past, so we use 'Was there...?' and the short answer 'Yes, there was.'