Verb to be:
Present vs Past of Be: Mixed Review

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. I ___ tired right now. I want to sleep.
   a) am
   b) was
   c) are
   d) were

2. She ___ at home yesterday. She went shopping.
   a) isn't
   b) wasn't
   c) aren't
   d) weren't

3. "Where ___ you born?" "I was born in London."
   a) was
   b) are
   c) were
   d) is

4. The shops ___ closed on Sundays.
   a) was
   b) is
   c) were
   d) are

5. He ___ a child when the war started.
   a) was
   b) is
   c) were
   d) are

6. My parents ___ both teachers. They work at the same school.
   a) was
   b) are
   c) is
   d) were

7. There ___ a lot of people at the concert last night.
   a) is
   b) are
   c) were
   d) was

8. I ___ not very good at maths when I was young.
   a) am
   b) is
   c) are
   d) was

9. It ___ very hot today. Let's go to the beach!
   a) is
   b) was
   c) are
   d) were

10. We ___ late for the meeting yesterday morning.
    a) are
    b) were
    c) was
    d) is

11. "___ the weather nice last weekend?" "No, it rained every day."
    a) Is
    b) Are
    c) Was
    d) Were

12. These books ___ really interesting. You should read them.
   a) was
   b) is
   c) were
   d) are

13. "Where ___ your office?" "It's on King Street."
   a) is
   b) was
   c) are
   d) were

14. Tom ___ ill yesterday, so he didn't come to work.
   a) is
   b) was
   c) are
   d) were

15. The streets ___ very quiet at night in this town.
   a) was
   b) were
   c) are
   d) is

16. My grandmother ___ a nurse during the war.
   a) is
   b) are
   c) were
   d) was

17. "___ you happy with your new job?" "Yes, I love it!"
   a) Are
   b) Were
   c) Was
   d) Is

18. All the windows ___ open when we arrived.
   a) are
   b) were
   c) is
   d) was

19. I ___ really sorry about what happened yesterday.
   a) was
   b) were
   c) am
   d) are

20. "___ there a cinema near here?" "Yes, there's one on Park Road."
   a) Was
   b) Were
   c) Are
   d) Is

Answers

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

Explanations

1. "am" (a)

'Right now' tells us the sentence is in the present. Use 'am' with 'I'. I am tired right now.

2. "wasn't" (b)

'Yesterday' tells us the sentence is in the past. 'She' is singular, so use 'wasn't'. She wasn't at home yesterday.

3. "were" (c)

'Born' always uses past tense 'be'. Use 'were' with 'you'. Where were you born?

4. "are" (d)

'On Sundays' describes a regular, general fact (present). 'The shops' is plural, so use 'are'. The shops are closed on Sundays.

5. "was" (a)

'When the war started' places the sentence in the past. 'He' is singular, so use 'was'.

6. "are" (b)

'They work...' (present tense) tells us this is about now. 'My parents' is plural, so use 'are'.

7. "were" (c)

'Last night' tells us the sentence is in the past. 'A lot of people' is plural, so use 'were'.

8. "was" (d)

'When I was young' tells us the sentence is about the past. Use 'was' with 'I'. I was not very good at maths.

9. "is" (a)

'Today' and 'Let's go' tell us the sentence is about now. Use 'is' with 'it'. It is very hot today.

10. "were" (b)

'Yesterday morning' tells us the sentence is in the past. 'We' is plural, so use 'were'.

11. "Was" (c)

'Last weekend' and 'it rained' tell us this is about the past. 'The weather' is singular, so use 'Was'.

12. "are" (d)

'You should read them' is a present recommendation. 'These books' is plural, so use 'are'.

13. "is" (a)

The reply 'It's on King Street' (present) tells us the question is about now. 'Your office' is singular, so use 'is'.

14. "was" (b)

'Yesterday' and 'didn't come' tell us the sentence is in the past. 'Tom' is singular, so use 'was'.

15. "are" (c)

'In this town' describes a general fact (present). 'The streets' is plural, so use 'are'.

16. "was" (d)

'During the war' tells us the sentence is about the past. 'My grandmother' is singular, so use 'was'.

17. "Are" (a)

The reply 'I love it!' (present) tells us the question is about now. Use 'Are' with 'you'.

18. "were" (b)

'When we arrived' (past) tells us the sentence is about the past. 'All the windows' is plural, so use 'were'.

19. "am" (c)

'I am sorry' expresses how you feel right now — the apology is in the present, even though what happened was in the past.

20. "Is" (d)

'Near here' and the reply 'there's one' (present) tell us the question is about now. Use 'Is' with singular 'there' (a cinema).