

ENGLISH 3AC · SEMESTER 2

Unit 13 (Celebrations)

English 3AC Unit 13 (Celebrations) helps you describe a past occasion with was and were. He was happy. They were at the celebration. You say where people were, describe the event and ask past questions with be. A modest school achievement ceremony provides the lesson's context.

Key points

- I/he/she/it take was; you/we/they take were.
- Past negatives use wasn't and weren't.
- Questions begin with Was or Were, without did.
- Answer Were you there? about yourself with Yes, I was.
- There was introduces singular past existence; there were introduces plural existence.
- An object count does not establish the number of participants.

Learning goals

- Name familiar celebration and ceremony words.
- Choose was or were from the subject.
- Make past be negatives and questions.
- Give was/were short answers.
- Use there was/there were.
- Write a factual description of a past school event.

Communication: describing a past occasion

An occasion can be a school ceremony, an achievement celebration or a family visit during Eid. This lesson uses a school ceremony, with a boys' group and a male teacher. Talk about the event respectfully and avoid assuming that every family observes an occasion in the same way.

Two schoolboys recall yesterday

Bilal: Were you at the school ceremony yesterday? Adam: Yes, I was. Bilal: Was it in the library? Adam: No, it wasn't. It was in the school hall. The pupils were happy.

Celebrations

Yesterday



He was happy.

was:
I / he / she / it



They were at the celebration.

were:
you / we / they

Use was with I, he, she and it; use were with you, we and they to describe a past situation.

Vocabulary: the occasion and its participants

Word	Meaning in this lesson	Example
ceremony	an organised occasion	a school ceremony
celebration	an occasion marking something special	an achievement celebration
certificate	a document recognising achievement	a school certificate
guest	a person invited to an occasion	three guests
hall	a large room for a gathering	in the school hall

Use happy, proud, quiet or crowded to describe a stated condition. A certificate in a picture does not establish a pupil's exact score or rank. A factual description reports what the text says or the image supports.

Grammar: was and were

Past of be Use was with I/he/she/it and a singular subject. Use were with you/we/they and plural subjects: I was there. The hall was quiet. The pupils were happy.

Subject	Present	Past
I	am	was
He / She / It	is	was
You / We / They	are	were

Yesterday, last week and last Friday locate an event in a finished past period. Unlike present I am and you are, past I was and you were use two forms. You takes were even when it addresses one person.

Grammar: negatives, questions and short answers

Statement	Negative	Question
He was in the hall.	He wasn't in the hall.	Was he in the hall?
They were at the ceremony.	They weren't at the ceremony.	Were they at the ceremony?

Put not after was/were for a negative. Move was/were before the subject for a question. Answer Was he there? with Yes, he was or No, he wasn't. Answer Were you there? about yourself with Yes, I was. Do not add did to these past be questions.

Did he was happy? is incorrect. Be forms its own past question: Was he happy? Did belongs to past simple questions with other main verbs, which the next unit practises.

Describe a past ceremony

- Find the finished past time.
- Choose was or were according to the subject.
- Add a place, adjective or other suitable description.
- For a question, move was/were before the subject and match the short answer.

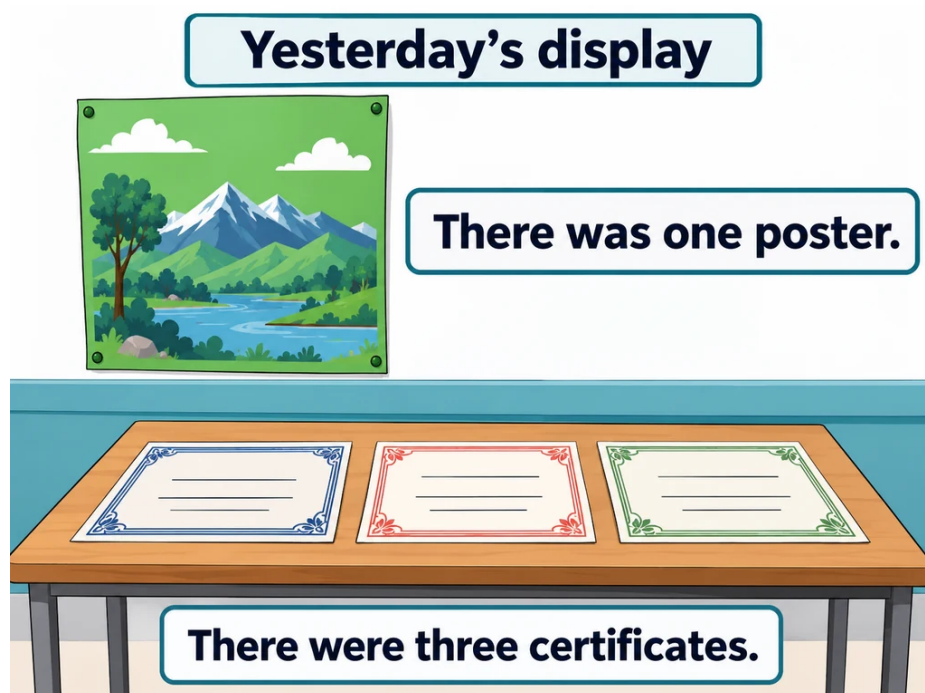
Grammar: there was and there were

Past existence Use there was for one item or an uncountable quantity and there were for several items: There was a poster. There were three certificates. There was some water.

Describe the display

There was one table near the board. There were three certificates on the table.

- The singular table takes was. The plural certificates take were.



Use there was with one poster and there were with three certificates to describe past existence.

Study skills: build a past snapshot

Make a simple map with columns for person, place and feeling. Use only the details provided. Before changing the tense, identify the subject. This catches The pupils was and You was even when the rest of the sentence sounds familiar.

Skills work: reading yesterday's ceremony

Yesterday, the boys' reading club ceremony was in the school hall. Adam was there with his brother Sami. The club's male teacher was near the display table. Bilal was not there because he was at another school activity. There were three certificates on the table and one green poster on the wall. The hall was quiet at the start. The boys were proud of their reading project.

Bilal's absence is explicit. Do not count him as a participant because his name appears in the text. Three counts certificates, not all people present. The reading gives no exact number of pupils in the hall.

Skills work: listening and writing a memory

A partner reads: "The ceremony was in the hall. There were three certificates. Bilal wasn't there." Record the place, the object count and the absent pupil. Then write a short memory of an invented single-gender school group's ceremony using both was and were.

Review: a past state, not a completed-action verb

- Choose was/were from the subject.
- Ask about yesterday without adding did to be.
- Use there were for a plural display.
- Separate an object count from a participant count.

Exercises: try before reading the answers**1. Choose past be**

Complete: I ... happy. You ... there. The hall ... quiet. The pupils ... proud.

2. Make past negatives

Negate: Adam was in the library. The boys were late.

3. Ask about yesterday

Turn into questions: The ceremony was in the hall. The certificates were on the table.

4. Use past existence

Complete: There ... one poster. There ... three certificates. There ... some water.

5. Give past short answers

Answer yes to Were you at the ceremony? and no to Was Bilal there?

6. Ask for a past place

The ceremony was in the school hall. Write a Where question and answer.

7. Present to past

Rewrite with yesterday: The hall is quiet. The boys are proud. I am in the group.

8. Read attendance carefully

Who was with Adam? Why was Bilal absent? What colour was the poster?

9. Do not turn objects into people

There were three certificates. Does the reading establish exactly three pupils at the ceremony?

10. Edit a ceremony memory

Correct: The pupils was happy. Did the hall was quiet? You was there. There were one poster.

11. Listen to a past snapshot

Have a partner read the listening script. Record place, certificate number and absent pupil.

12. Write a past school occasion

Write 50-70 words about an invented boys' group or girls' group ceremony. Include a place, feelings, objects and one absence.

Answers and explanations

1. Choose past be

I was happy. You were there. The hall was quiet. The pupils were proud. Your takes were even for one listener.

2. Make past negatives

Adam wasn't in the library. The boys weren't late. Put not after the correct past be form.

3. Ask about yesterday

Was the ceremony in the hall? Were the certificates on the table? Move was/were before the subject without adding did.

4. Use past existence

There was one poster. There were three certificates. There was some water. Singular and uncountable quantities take was.

5. Give past short answers

Yes, I was. No, he wasn't. Change you to I when replying about yourself and retain the appropriate be form.

6. Ask for a past place

Where was the ceremony? It was in the school hall. Where requests the location; the singular subject takes was.

7. Present to past

Yesterday, the hall was quiet. The boys were proud. I was in the group. Change present be while preserving subject agreement.

8. Read attendance carefully

Sami, Adam's brother, was with him. Bilal was at another school activity. The poster was green. Each detail is explicitly supplied.

9. Do not turn objects into people

No. Three counts certificates on the table. The text does not give an exact participant count.

10. Edit a ceremony memory

The pupils were happy. Was the hall quiet? You were there. There was one poster. Fix plural and singular agreement and the past be question.

11. Listen to a past snapshot

Place: the hall. Certificates: three. Absent pupil: Bilal. The negative is important; mentioning his name does not make him present.

12. Write a past school occasion

Model: Yesterday our boys' reading club ceremony was in the school hall. I was there with my brother. Our teacher was near the display table. There were three certificates and one green poster. The room was quiet at first. We were proud of our project. Bilal wasn't there because he was at another activity. Check every was/were subject and use a clear finished past time. Other invented modest occasions are acceptable.

Frequently asked questions

What grammar is taught in English 3AC Unit 13 Celebrations?

This lesson focuses on the past of be: was and were. You use it to describe locations and states during a past occasion, and to make negatives, questions and short answers.

What is the rule for was and were?

Use was with I, he, she, it or a singular noun. Use were with you, we, they or plural nouns. You takes were even when the question addresses only one person.

Do was/were questions need did?

No. Move was or were before the subject: Was the hall quiet? Were the pupils there? Did is used with other past simple main verbs in the next unit.

How do I use there was and there were?

There was introduces a singular object or uncountable quantity in the past. There were introduces several objects: There was one poster, but There were three certificates.

How can I describe a celebration respectfully?

Use factual details such as place, time, objects and stated feelings. An invented school achievement ceremony works well. Avoid assuming everyone shares the same customs or inventing facts about participants.

Revision resource: follow the units, instructions and pace set by your teacher.

[Read the full lesson and practise on MATHFJIB.](#)