ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Past Simple (Was /Were) Test A1 – A2 Grammar Exercises

A1 A2 Level Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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11	**D**	12	**C**	13	**C**	14	**B**	15	**A**	16	**C**	17	**D**	18	**A**	19	**D**	20	**D**

Explanations

1. A: There _____ a traffic jam on the bridge right now.

B: No problem. I am taking the ferry today.
✔ **C) is**
Right now tells us it is happening now, so we use **is** with one thing (**a traffic jam**). Not **was**, because that is for the past.

2. There _____ any students on the campus yesterday because they were away for a holiday.
✔ **B) weren't**
Yesterday is in the past, and **students** is more than one, so we use **were**. **Any** goes with a negative, so the answer is **weren't**.

3. _____ there a promising new band at the music festival last week?
✔ **A) Was**
Last week is in the past, and **a band** is one thing, so we use **Was**.

4. There _____ a lot of roses in her garden because she likes growing them.
✔ **D) are**
She likes is about now, and **a lot of roses** is more than one, so we use **are**.

5. I _____ in Germany last month and the people at the hotel _____ very friendly.
✔ **C) was / were**
Last month is in the past. We say **I was** and **the people were**, because **people** is more than one.

6. Ryan _____ experienced in his job years ago, but now he _____ an expert.
✔ **D) wasn't / is**
Years ago is the past, so we use **wasn't**. **Now** is the present, so we use **is**.

7. _____ your cousins basketball players? They _____ very tall.
✔ **B) Are / are**
This is about now, and **cousins** and **they** are more than one person, so we use **Are** and **are**.

8. The films at last summer's festival _____ quite good, so he _____ happy to watch them.
✔ **A) were / was**
Last summer is in the past. We say **the films were** (more than one) and **he was** (one person).

9. Nick _____ alone yesterday. He _____ with his family in the city.
✔ **C) wasn't / was**
Yesterday is the past. Nick was with his family, so he **wasn't** alone. Then: **He was** with his family.

10. There _____ a science laboratory in our school, so students can't do experiments.
✔ **A) isn't**
Students can't is about now, so we use the present. There is no laboratory, so the answer is **isn't**.

11. A: _____ the children ready?

B: Yes, they _____. Let's go!
✔ **D) Are / are**
Let's go! shows this is about now. **Children** is more than one, so we use **Are** and **are**.

12. That museum _____ a house in the past and there _____ some apple trees in its garden then.
✔ **C) was / were**
In the past and **then** show the past. We say **the museum was** (one thing) and **there were some apple trees** (more than one).

13. There _____ any security guards in front of their building, but there _____ security cameras.
✔ **C) aren't / are**
This is about now. **Any** goes with a negative, so we use **aren't**. **But** shows the opposite, so the second gap is **are**.

14. There _____ few trees on that mountain five years ago, but now there _____ many.
✔ **B) were / are**
Five years ago is the past, so we use **were** with **trees**. **Now** is the present, so we use **are**.

15. The oranges on this tree _____ ripe at the beginning of the season, but they _____ very tasty now.
✔ **A) weren't / are**
Oranges is more than one. At the beginning they **weren't** ripe (past), but **now** they **are** tasty (present).

16. _____ dinner ready? I _____ so hungry right now.
✔ **C) Is / am**
Right now shows the present. We say **Is dinner ready?** (one thing) and **I am** hungry.

17. There _____ even one candle on his birthday cake. Maybe he doesn't like blowing out candles.
✔ **D) wasn't**
The birthday party is in the past, and **one candle** is one thing, so we use **wasn't**. Not **weren't**, because that is for more than one.

18. Daniel and I _____ both ill yesterday, but we _____ very well at the moment.
✔ **A) were / are**
Daniel and I is two people. **Yesterday** is the past, so **were**; **at the moment** is now, so **are**.

19. A: _____ the music at the party good last night?

B: Some songs _____ superb.
✓ D) Was / were
Last night is the past. We say **Was the music** (one thing) and **some songs were** (more than one).

20. Three days ago, the performers _____ good on stage, so there _____ a six-hour rehearsal yesterday, and at the moment they are performing quite well.
✓ D) weren't / was
Three days ago and **yesterday** are in the past. The performers **weren't** good (more than one person), so there **was** a rehearsal (one thing).

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