

# Contrast: *BE* and *DO* in Past Tense Negative Statements

See Lesson 28 for a review of "wasn't" and "weren't." See Lesson 32 for a review of "didn't."

Use a negative past form of *BE*—*wasn't* or *weren't*—with nouns, adjectives, and prepositional phrases to make a negative sentence in the past:

With Nouns	He <b>wasn't</b> a good waiter.
With Adjectives:	We <b>weren't</b> happy.
With Prepositional Phrases:	The restaurant <b>wasn't</b> in a nice area.

**Incorrect:** The food ~~didn't~~ good.

Use the negative past form of *DO*—*didn't* (or *did not*)—with the base form of ALL other verbs to make a negative sentence in the past. *Do* is a helping verb.

For all verbs except <i>BE</i> :	I <b>didn't</b> like the restaurant.
	She <b>didn't</b> want a hamburger.
	The food <b>didn't</b> taste good.

**Incorrect:** ~~The food wasn't taste good.~~



**A** Thomas writes restaurant reviews for a newspaper. Last night he ate at a terrible restaurant. Complete his article with *wasn't*, *weren't* or *didn't*. Then listen and check your answers.

### Restaurant Review by Thomas Lake

Last night, my wife and I went to the Island Café for dinner. It's a new restaurant. It opened three weeks ago.

We (1. *didn't/weren't*) ..... have a good time. It (2. *didn't/wasn't*) ..... a good restaurant, and it (3. *didn't/wasn't*) ..... in a nice area. It was very crowded, and we waited for a table for forty-five minutes.

Our table (4. *didn't/wasn't*) ..... clean, and the flowers (5. *didn't/weren't*) ..... fresh.

Our waiter (6. *didn't/wasn't*) ..... polite. He (7. *didn't/wasn't*) ..... a good waiter. I ordered salmon, but he (8. *didn't/wasn't*) ..... bring me salmon. He brought me chicken. My wife ordered spaghetti, but he (9. *didn't/wasn't*) ..... serve her spaghetti. He served her a hamburger. We (10. *didn't/weren't*) ..... happy.

We waited about half an hour, and he finally brought us the right food. We were very hungry, but the food (11. *didn't/wasn't*) ..... hot and it (12. *didn't/wasn't*) ..... taste good. We (13. *didn't/weren't*) ..... eat it—we paid and left.

My wife and I (14. *didn't/weren't*) ..... like the Island Café. But we were happy after we had some pizza and took a walk on the beach.

"Fresh" and "polite" are adjectives.

**B** Look at the restaurant review in Exercise A and complete this chart with the words that follow *wasn't*, *weren't*, and *didn't*.

WASN'T/WEREN'T			DIDN'T
<i>With Nouns</i>	<i>With Adjectives</i>	<i>With Prepositional Phrases</i>	<i>With Verbs</i>
a good restaurant	clean		have

**C** Fill in the blanks with *wasn't*, *weren't*, or *didn't*.

1. Thomas didn't like the restaurant.
2. When Thomas and Erica got to the restaurant, they ..... get a table.
3. They waited a long time, so they ..... happy.
4. The restaurant ..... in a nice part of the city.
5. They ..... talk a lot because the restaurant was very noisy.
6. The restaurant ..... quiet.
7. The waiter ..... know how to do his job.
8. Also, he ..... polite.

**D** Erica is sending an e-mail to her friend. She is talking about her terrible evening at the Island Café. Circle the eight mistakes in her e-mail, and write in the corrections.

Hi Amy,

Tom and I ate at a terrible restaurant last night. We really weren't <sup>didn't</sup> like it. We didn't liked the food—it was cold and it wasn't taste good. And the waiter wasn't bring the right food. When he brought me a hamburger, I said, "I didn't ordered a hamburger! I ordered spaghetti!" He wasn't say, "I'm sorry."

We wasn't eat. We left and drove to a nice area near the beach. We had some pizza and took a walk on the beach. That was fun. The first part of the evening didn't nice, but the second part was great!

I'll call you tonight, Erica.

# Contrast: *BE* and *DO* in Past Tense Yes-No and *Wh* Questions

Use a past form of *BE*—*was* or *were*—with nouns, adjectives and prepositional phrases to ask a question about the past.

	Yes-No Questions and Answers	<i>Wh</i> Questions and Answers
With Nouns	Was she a teacher? Yes, she was.	How was Mother's Day?*
With Adjectives	Was she surprised? Yes, she was.	It was great.
With Prepositional Phrases	Were you at a restaurant? Yes, we were.	Why was she surprised? Because of the present.
		Where were you? At Marie's Restaurant.
<b>Incorrect:</b>	<del>Did she surprised?</del>	<del>Why did she surprised?</del>

**Language Note:**

\*Answer *How + BE* questions with adjectives.

How was brunch? It was **wonderful/great/pretty good/O.K./terrible.**

Use the past form of *DO*—*did*—with ALL other verbs to make a question about the past. *Do* is a helping verb.

	Yes-No Questions and Answers	<i>Wh</i> Questions and Answers
For all verbs except <i>BE</i> :	Did you have a good time? Yes, we did. Did she have a hamburger? No, she didn't.	When did you go? On Sunday. What did she have? A salad.
<b>Incorrect:</b>	<del>Was she have a good time?</del>	<del>When was you go?</del>

AUDIO



**A** Yesterday was Mother's Day. Andrew took his mother, Margie, out to brunch. Now Andrew's friend, Rose, is asking him questions. Listen and circle the correct answers to the questions.



- |  |                           |                           |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Did Andrew take his mother out to brunch yesterday? | <u>Yes, he did.</u>       | Yes, he was.              |
| 2. When did they have brunch?                          | Last week.                | Yesterday.                |
| 3. How was brunch?                                     | It was great.             | It was OK.                |
| 4. Did they have a nice time?                          | Yes, they did.            | Yes, they were.           |
| 5. Where did they eat?                                 | In Andrew's neighborhood. | In Margie's neighborhood. |
| 6. Was Margie happy?                                   | Yes, she did.             | Yes, she was.             |
| 7. Did Andrew give her a ring?                         | No, he didn't.            | No, he wasn't.            |
| 8. What did Andrew give his mother?                    | A bracelet.               | A necklace.               |

**B** Margie is telling her friend Marta about brunch. Write *was*, *were*, or *did* on the lines.

Marta: Hi, Margie. How (1.) ..... *was* ..... Mother's Day?

Margie: It (2.) ..... very nice.

Marta: What (3.) ..... you do?

Margie: I went to brunch with my son.

Marta: (4.) ..... you have a good time?

Margie: Yes, I (5.) .....

Marta: Where (6.) ..... you go?

Margie: To a restaurant in his neighborhood. It (7.) ..... a great place.

Marta: (8.) ..... he give you that beautiful necklace?

Margie: Yes, he (9.) ..... How (10.) ..... you know?

Marta: Because he called and asked me for advice about a present for you!

**C** Read the paragraph. Then unscramble the words below to write *Wh* questions about the paragraph. Answer the questions.

Last Saturday, Ellen took her mother-in-law, Annette, out to lunch for her birthday. They went to a nice restaurant at the mall. Everything was delicious. They talked about Ellen's husband, Bill, and their three kids. They also talked about Annette's retirement party. They had a good time together.

1. take/lunch/to/When/Ellen/did/Annette Q: *When did Ellen take Annette to lunch?*

A: *She took her to lunch last Saturday.*

2. restaurant/was/How/the

Q: .....

A: .....

3. restaurant/was/Where/the

Q: .....

A: .....

4. fun/Did/have/they

Q: .....

A: .....

5. about/talk/they/What/did

Q: .....

A: .....

**D** Ask a partner five *Wh* questions about his or her last birthday. Then write sentences about your partner's birthday.

EXAMPLE: *How was your last birthday, Pedro?*

1. *Pedro's last birthday was exciting.*