

LESSON 15: FILL THE BLANKS WITH "WAS" OR "WERE"**• EXERCISE : FILL THE BLANKS & COPY EACH SENTENCE (ITEMS 1 – 10)**

Fill the blanks with "was" or "were." Then copy each complete sentence neatly on the line below it.

1. The pencil _____ broken.

2. _____ the pencil broken?

3. The book _____ lost.

4. _____ the book lost?

5. The trees _____ very tall.

6. _____ the trees very tall?

7. The man _____ working.

8. _____ the man working?

9. The boys _____ going to dinner.

10. _____ the boys going to dinner?

SELF-CHECK & ACCURACY

Did you choose "was" or "were" correctly? Did you capitalize "Was" and "Were" when starting questions?

LESSON 15: FILL BLANKS WITH "WAS" OR "WERE" — TEACHER GUIDE

PEDAGOGICAL BLUEPRINT • INTERROGATIVE INVERSION & CONCORD CONTRAST

- **Core Learning Goal:** Master the two-way relationship between declarative statements and inverted questions in past tense with linking verb *to be*.
- **Syntactic Discrimination:** Singular subjects take **was / Was**; plural subjects take **were / Were**.
- **Orthographic Rule:** Initial auxiliary verbs in questions require initial capitalization: **Was** and **Were**.

1.	Statement	The pencil was broken.	Singular noun "pencil" → lowercase "was"; ends with period (.).
2.	Question	Was the pencil broken?	Inverted question → capitalized "Was" at sentence head; ends with (?).
3.	Statement	The book was lost.	Singular noun "book" → lowercase "was"; predicate adjective "lost".
4.	Question	Was the book lost?	Inverted question → capitalized "Was"; ends with (?).
5.	Statement	The trees were very tall.	Plural noun "trees" (-s) → lowercase "were"; ends with period (.).
6.	Question	Were the trees very tall?	Inverted plural question → capitalized "Were" at sentence head; ends with (?).
7.	Statement	The man was working.	Singular noun "man" → lowercase "was"; past continuous participle "working".
8.	Question	Was the man working?	Inverted question → capitalized "Was"; ends with (?).
9.	Statement	The boys were going to dinner.	Plural noun "boys" (-s) → lowercase "were"; prepositional phrase "to dinner".
10.	Question	Were the boys going to dinner?	Inverted plural question → capitalized "Were"; ends with (?).

🗯️ QUESTION - STATEMENT TRANSFORMATION DRILL

Pair students up: Student A reads the statement ("The pencil was broken."); Student B immediately transforms it into the question ("Was the pencil broken?"). Then switch roles for plural pairs.

🔥 THE CAPITALIZATION CHECKPOINT

Emphasize the crucial difference: In statement items 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, the word *was / were* is inside the sentence, so it is lowercase. In question items 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, it begins the sentence, requiring a Capital letter: **Was** or **Were**!

🔍 VOCABULARY & PHONICS

Discuss past participles functioning as adjectives: **broken** and **lost**. Highlight action words in continuous form: **working** and **going**.

☀️ CONNECTION TO LESSON 7

Remind students of Lesson 7 where they filled blanks with "*is*" and "*are*". Help them see that Lesson 15 follows the exact same pattern, but shifted to the past tense!

PEDAGOGICAL STANDARD Aligned with Classical Trivium Grammar Stage & CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.1.1.C, L.1.2.B