

LESSON 16: CHANGING "WAS" AND "WERE"

GRAMMAR RULE • " WAS " AND " WERE "

• We use **was** when we speak of **one**.

• We use **were** when we speak of **more than one**.

EXERCISE : CHANGE AND WRITE CORRECTLY (ITEMS 1 – 8)

Change "was" to "were," or "were" to "was," and write correctly.

1. The egg was in the nest.

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2. The cows were in the pond.

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3. Were the trees near the house?

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4. The bird was in the cage.

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5. Was the stone in the water?

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6. The girl was in the garden.

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7. Were the bells ringing?

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8. The cloud was very black.

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SELF-CHECK & ACCURACY

Did you change both the verb and the naming word? Did every statement end with (.) and question with (?)?

LESSON 16: CHANGING "WAS" AND "WERE" — TEACHER GUIDE

PEDAGOGICAL BLUEPRINT • TWO-WAY CONCORD TRANSFORMATION

- **Syntactic Transformation:** When changing was ↔ were, students must adjust the grammatical number of the subject noun (singular ↔ plural) to preserve concord.
- **Interrogative Consistency:** In questions (items 3, 5, 7), Was or Were remains at the front with an initial Capital letter and concludes with a question mark (?).

1. The egg was in the nest.	The eggs were in the nest.	Singular "egg was" → plural "eggs were".
2. The cows were in the pond.	The cow was in the pond.	Plural "cows were" → singular "cow was".
3. Were the trees near the house?	Was the tree near the house?	Plural question "Were...trees" → singular question "Was...tree".
4. The bird was in the cage.	The birds were in the cage.	Singular "bird was" → plural "birds were".
5. Was the stone in the water?	Were the stones in the water?	Singular question "Was...stone" → plural question "Were...stones".
6. The girl was in the garden.	The girls were in the garden.	Singular "girl was" → plural "girls were".
7. Were the bells ringing?	Was the bell ringing?	Plural question "Were...bells" → singular question "Was...bell".
8. The cloud was very black.	The clouds were very black.	Singular "cloud was" → plural "clouds were".

🔑 THE SUBJECT - VERB CONNECTION

Remind students that changing the verb was ↔ were requires changing the noun too! We cannot say "The egg were" or "The cows was". The naming word and the action/linking word must agree.

🔥 PRESERVING SENTENCE TYPES

Emphasize that statements must remain statements (ending with a period) and questions must remain questions (ending with a question mark and beginning with a Capital letter).

🔍 SINGULAR & PLURAL NOUN PAIRS

Review regular plural -s formation: egg → eggs, cow → cows, tree → trees, bird → birds, stone → stones, girl → girls, bell → bells, cloud → clouds.

☀️ DICTATION & RECITATION

Read out the original sentences at normal pace and have students state the transformed sentence aloud before writing to build rapid auditory concord.

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