

# Was or Were?

1. Underline the words that need to be changed so that the sentences are written in the subjunctive form.

A. If I was a teenager again, I would try harder with my studies.

B. She wishes she was able to fly a plane so she could travel the world.

C. Jasper wishes he was a millionaire so that he didn't have to work.

VF

4. Anderson has written the sentence below.

My brother and I were visiting grandad when we saw an enormous badger.

He says,



My sentence is written in the subjunctive form because I have used 'were'.

Is he correct? Convince me.

R

2. Tick the sentences that are written in the subjunctive form.

A. If I were the Prime Minister, I would make everyone rich.

B. I wish I was able to fly so I didn't have to walk to school.

C. If Josh were better at football, he could join our team.

D. The car were waiting at the garage to get a new tyre.

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5. Use any of the words below to create four sentences which are written in the subjunctive form.

car

rabbit

rich

clown

pilot

elephant

A

3. Rewrite the sentences below in the subjunctive form.

A. If Marco was to go on holiday, he would visit his family in Mexico.

B. Lucille wishes she was able to visit her grandma but she lives too far away.

C. Mrs Green said, "If that was me, I would have done it differently!"

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6. Which sentence below is the odd one out?

A. Samantha was acting as if she were the boss.

B. We were told that the beach was the best place to sunbathe while we read our books.

C. If my mum and I were younger, we would travel the world and see all the places we dreamed of.

Explain your answer.

R

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B. She wishes she was able to fly a plane so she could travel the world.  
C. Jasper wishes he was a millionaire so that he didn't have to work.
- A and C
- A. If Marco were to go on holiday, he would visit his family in Mexico.  
B. Lucille wishes she were able to visit her grandma but she lives so far away.  
C. Mrs Green said, "If that were me, I would have done it differently!"
- Anderson is incorrect. His sentence is written in the past progressive tense, not the subjunctive form. Subjunctive form indicates wishful thinking, hypothetical situations or unreal situations.
- Various answers, for example:  
At the circus, my brother was acting as if he were the clown.  
If my parents were rich, they would buy us all a car.  
I wish I were a rabbit so I could hop around from place to place.  
If I were a pilot, I would want to own my own plane.  
If he owned a sports car, he would always drive with the roof down.  
If I were an elephant, I would enjoy playing in the muddy water.
- Sentence B is the odd one out because it uses 'were' in the past progressive tense. Sentences A and C use 'were' in the subjunctive form to express wishful thinking or an unreal situation.