

were the spartans gay

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What is the difference between "were" and "have been"?

What is the difference between "were" and "have been", and are these sentences grammatically correct? 1) some of the best known writers of detective fiction in the twentieth century were women.

grammar - as if it is vs. as if it were vs. as if it was - English

...

I learned from many sources that as if it were is accepted by all native English speakers. And as if it was is widely used, especially informally. But is the simple present indicative accepted as ...

Should I use "was" or "were" in "as though he was frightened"?

Technically, you should use 'were'. You are correct that the sentence is subjunctive because of the indefiniteness introduced by 'as though'. The subjunctive takes the plural form of the past tense of 'to be' as its auxiliary verb, even in the singular. Having said that, many expert native English speakers will use 'was', both formally and informally. If writing in a formal context, it might ...

Meaning Difference "Would be" and "were" - English Language Learners ...

Were-ing (past continuous of BE) is used to situations which were happening at a special time in the past and none hypothetical, it is more direct, not imaginative.

conditional constructions - Meaning using "was to" and "were to" in ...

That is, both "were to" (using the irrealis "were") and "was to" (using a past-tense verb) would usually be interchangeable in a sentence structured similar to yours, but that would be if the sentence was in non-fiction text.

meaning in context - Use of "were to" in English grammar - English ...

But I cannot rule out the possibility that Indian English—and specifically Indian Political English—has evolved this usage of were to precisely in order to express firmness and caution in the same utterance. Perhaps our Indian readers could speak to this. † This use is called subjunctive in traditional grammar.

"Were you able to" and "are you able to", when to use which?

Were you able to attend the meeting yesterday? I cannot understand in what kind of context a guy would say that, could someone make up a scenario? X misses the meeting. He needs notes. He asks his friend Y "were you able to attend the meeting yesterday?".

tense - "If something was" vs "If something were" - English Language ...

"If + were" expresses the subjunctive mood, which refers to wishes and desires and is known as a "non-factual" mood. If you're mentioning a possibility or a probability, a chance that something could be, use "was".

modal verbs - "Could you...?" vs. "Were you able to...?" - English ...

Were you able to attend the meeting yesterday? Is used as the standard question. Could you... Tends to be used for things that are going to happen in the future, for example Could you attend the meeting next week? However I don't believe there are any strict rules governing what combinations of "could" or "was/were able to" you are allowed to use.

grammar - "I wish I was" vs. "I wish I were" - English Language ...

Yes, but despite what you may have read, "I wish I were rich" is not a subjunctive clause. The subjunctive is a clause type that uses the plain form of the verb, as in "It is vital that I be kept informed". The "were" in your example is best called 'irrealis', a special mood form instanced solely by "were" with 1st or 3rd person singular subjects. Many speakers prefer to use the preterite "was ...