

Re: was did

# Re: was did

---

*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2008-09/msg00525.html>

---

- *From:* "Ekkehard Dengler" <ED-RS@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Fri, 19 Sep 2008 01:30:11 +0200
- 

benlizro@xxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

On Sep 18, 11:19 pm, "Peter T. Daniels" <gramma...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Sep 18, 2:18 am, John Swindle <jcswin...@xxxxxxx> wrote:

On Wed, 17 Sep 2008 13:28:52 -0700 (PDT), "Peter T. Daniels"

<gramma...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Sep 17, 2:39 pm, John Swindle  
<jcswin...@xxxxxxx> wrote:

On Wed, 17 Sep 2008  
05:32:12 -0700 (PDT),  
"Peter T. Daniels"  
<gramma...@xxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote:

On Sep 17,  
1:17 am,  
John  
Swindle  
<jcswin...@xxxxxxx>  
wrote:

.  
.  
.  
I  
grew  
up  
in  
North  
America  
and

Re: was did

Re: was did

still  
live  
in  
the  
United  
States  
(although  
not  
in  
North  
America),  
and  
I  
can  
tell  
you  
how  
to  
construct  
those,  
or  
how  
I  
do  
it  
anyway.  
Write  
an  
e-mail  
message.  
Use  
a  
"was"  
construction.  
Go  
back  
and  
change  
it  
to  
a  
"did"  
construction,  
but  
forget  
to  
delete  
the  
"was."  
Et  
voila.

Re: was did

Re: was did

(Ett  
VOY-la.)  
I  
can't  
imagine  
that  
those  
are  
anything  
but  
typos.  
-

Did you  
"grow up in  
NA" before  
1980?

You claim  
to live in  
Hawai`i and  
that the  
construction  
is not  
used there?

Right on both counts! So far  
as I know.

It's hard to say that a  
construction is not used, but  
"was did" is  
certainly unfamiliar. I  
suspect that the examples  
represent  
careless writing or editing  
and that the writers would  
not use it  
in their own speech.

Re: was did

You have however heard it  
widely, and if others have  
heard it too  
then I'm obviously  
mistaken.

Have others heard it too?

The linguists who wrote the AmSp article  
that analys... found  
certainly have ...

(is is, not was did)

Sure. But "was did" is something else: a typo.

Of course "was did" could work just fine in a context like  
"Only  
when he looked back and saw who it was did he abandon the  
idea of  
singing 'The Internationale' at her wedding."—

Of course it's not a typo, or there wouldn't be so many examples so  
easily findable.

I'm not sure I follow this argument. Google mines an enormous corpus,  
and you can find numerous examples of all kinds of things that clearly  
are errors.

Including 91,800 examples of "I have know idea".

Regards,  
Ekkehard

.

Re: was did