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Verbs and Tenses

Most **verbs** are **action words**. They tell you what people, animals or things are doing.

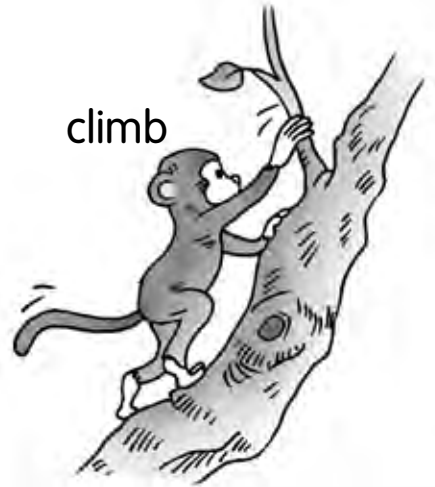
knock



burst



climb



dig



read



Word File

act	jump
bake	move
bend	pull
buy	run
close	shout
cook	sing
cross	sit
fall	slide
fly	stand
go	start
grow	swim
hop	walk

drop



The Simple Present Tense

The **simple present tense** expresses a general truth or a customary action.



Uncle Joe **wears** glasses.



The sun **rises** in the east.



Ducks **love** water.



The children **go** to school by bus.

Mary **enjoys** singing.

Peter sometimes **lends** me his bike.

Cows **eat** grass.

Monkeys **like** bananas.

Tom **collects** stamps.

The earth **goes** around the sun.

It often **snows** in winter.

We always **wash** our hands before meals.

We **eat** three meals a day.

Father **takes** the dog for a walk every morning.

Use the simple present tense to talk about things that are planned for the future.



Melanie **starts** school tomorrow.



Next week I **go** to summer camp.



The train **departs** in five minutes.

We **join** the senior scout troop in July this year.

My big brother **leaves** school at 4 o'clock.

The new supermarket **opens** next Friday.

The new grammar book **comes** out in September.

Grandad **retires** next year.

We **fly** to London next Thursday.

The plane **lands** at 5:30 P.M.

We **move** to our new house in a month.

My big sister **begins** her summer job next week.

Exercise 1

Underline the *verbs* in the following sentences.

- 1 The children go to school by bus.
- 2 Bats sleep during the day.
- 3 These toys belong to Kathy.
- 4 Every pupil has a good dictionary.
- 5 Polar bears live at the North Pole.
- 6 Most children learn very fast.
- 7 Mr. Thomas teaches us science.
- 8 The earth goes around the sun.
- 9 We never cross the street without looking.
- 10 Many stores close on Sunday.

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the *simple present tense* of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 Winter _____ after autumn. (come)
- 2 A dog _____. (bark)
- 3 You _____ tired. (look)
- 4 Everyone _____ mistakes. (make)
- 5 Ali _____ in a department store. (work)
- 6 Judy _____ English very well. (speak)
- 7 Tim's knee _____. (hurt)
- 8 Monkeys _____ bananas. (like)
- 9 Kate always _____ sandwiches for lunch. (eat)
- 10 He _____ very fast. (type)

Am, Is and Are

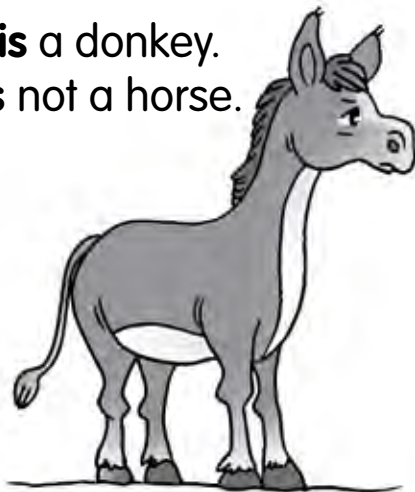
The words **am**, **is**, **are** are also verbs, but they are not action words. They are the simple present tense of the verb **be**.

Use **am** with the pronoun **I**, and **is** with the pronouns **he**, **she** and **it**. Use **are** with the pronouns **you**, **we** and **they**.



It **is** very hot today.
It **is** not very comfortable.

It **is** a donkey.
It **is** not a horse.



I **am** Peter. I **am** not Paul.

She **is** Miss Lee. She **is** a teacher.

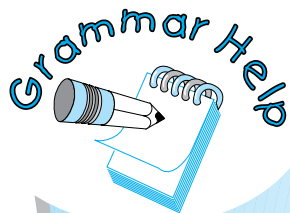
He **is** my father. He **is** a doctor. He **is** not a lawyer.

You **are** a stranger. You **are** not my friend.

We **are** in the same class, but we **are** not on the same team.

They **are** good friends. They **are** not enemies.





Here's a table to help you remember how to use **am**, **is** and **are**:

	Singular	Plural
First person	I am	we are
Second person	you are	you are
Third person	he is she is it is	they are they are they are

Learn these short forms called contractions:

I am	=	I'm	they are	=	they're
you are	=	you're	we are	=	we're
he is	=	he's			
she is	=	she's			
it is	=	it's			
am not	=	aren't (only in questions)			
is not	=	isn't			
are not	=	aren't			

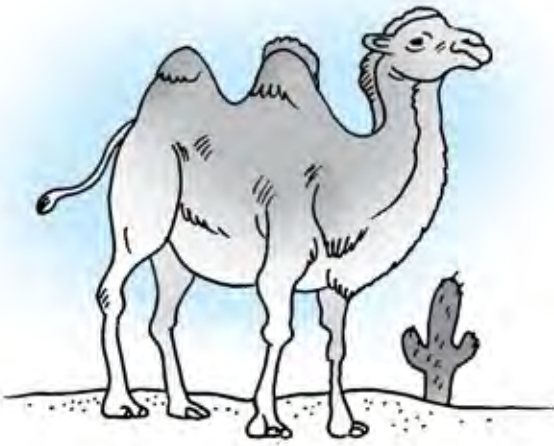
In questions, use **aren't** as a contraction of **am not**. For example, you can say:

I'm taller than you, **aren't** I?

But in a statement you say:

I'm **not** as old as you.

Use the verb **is** with singular nouns and **are** with plural nouns.



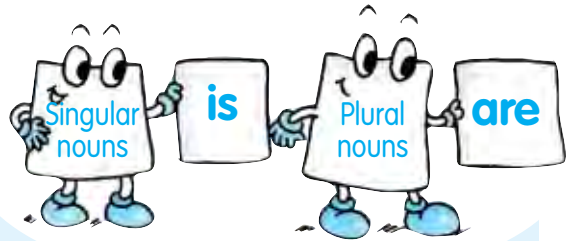
The camel **is** a desert animal.



Vegetables and fruit **are** healthy foods.



Lambs **are** baby sheep.



Kenneth **is** a lawyer.

Rex **is** a clever dog.

A duck **is** a kind of bird.

The playground **is** full of people today.

My house **is** near the school.

These questions **are** too difficult.

The balloons **are** very colorful.

Those people **are** very busy.

Dad and Mom **are** in the kitchen.

Use **is** and **are** with the word **there** to say what you can see and hear.



There is a castle on the hill.
There are some clouds in the sky.



There is a wasps' nest
in the tree.

There is a fence around the school.

There are a lot of books in the library.

There are two guards at the gate.

Is there any food in the fridge?

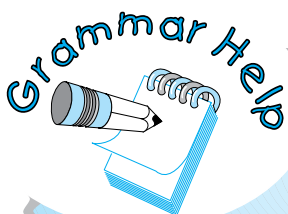
Are there any apples left on the tree?

How much rice **is there**?

There are a few sharks in the bay.

There are enough candies for everyone, **aren't there**?

There are two pigeons on the roof.



Learn this contraction:

there is = there's

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with *am*, *is* or *are*.

- 1 They _____ my good friends.
- 2 He _____ a soldier.
- 3 You _____ taller than Charlie.
- 4 She _____ ill.
- 5 We _____ very hungry.
- 6 It _____ a sunny day.
- 7 I _____ angry with Joe.
- 8 You _____ all welcome to my house.

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with *is* or *are*.

- 1 John's dog _____ very friendly.
- 2 Robert _____ ten years old.
- 3 These flowers _____ very pretty.
- 4 The two schools _____ close to each other.
- 5 Math _____ not a very difficult subject.
- 6 _____ dinner ready?
- 7 This computer _____ very easy to use.
- 8 All the windows _____ open.
- 9 Sue and Jane _____ neighbors.
- 10 His hair _____ curly.

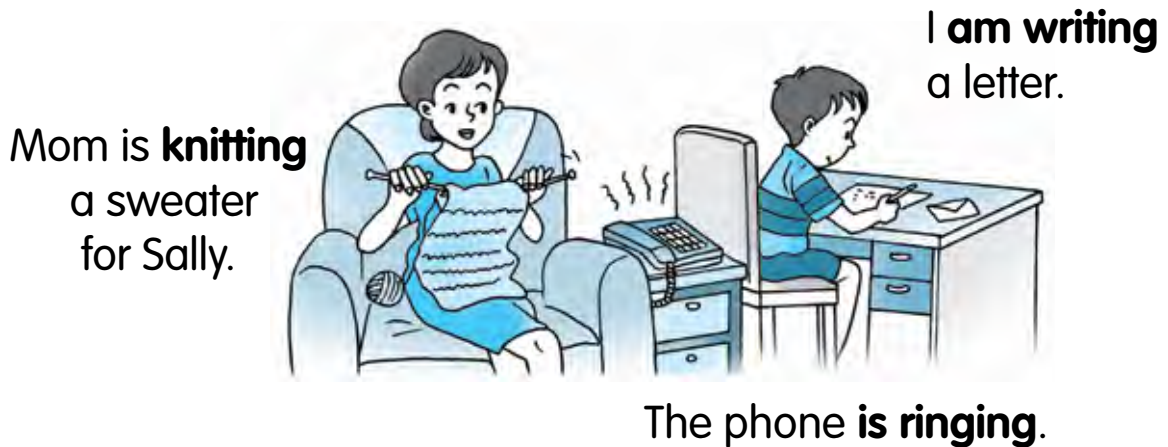
Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks with *There is* or *There are*.

- 1 _____ a fence around the barn.
- 2 _____ trees along the road.
- 3 _____ a rainbow in the sky.
- 4 _____ lots of parks in our town.
- 5 _____ nothing in the cupboard.
- 6 _____ not many bedrooms in the new house.
- 7 _____ lots of mistakes on your test paper.
- 8 _____ a wasps' nest in the tree.
- 9 _____ ants in the cookies.
- 10 _____ many different kinds of animals
in the zoo.
- 11 _____ plenty of food on the table.
- 12 _____ a church on the hilltop.
- 13 _____ no more water in the pool.
- 14 _____ too many people on the beach.
- 15 _____ only a few customers in the shop.

The Present Progressive Tense

When do you use the **present progressive tense**? To talk about actions in the present, or things that are still going on or happening now.



I'm **playing** chess with my friend.

She's **riding** a horse.

He's **taking** a walk in the park.

The man's **counting** the money.

They **are practicing** tai chi.

We're **rushing** to the airport to meet Mr. Smith.

They **are still sleeping**.

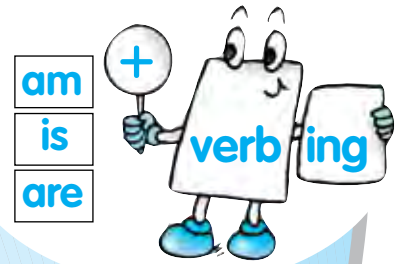
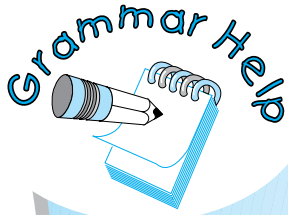
They **are swimming** in the sea.

What **are they doing**?

What's **happening**?

Why **aren't you doing** your homework?

Aren't I sitting up straight?



- ▶ Form the present progressive tense like this:

am + present participle

is + present participle

are + present participle

- ▶ The **present participle** is the form of a verb ending with **-ing**. For example:

show + ing = showing

come + ing = coming

- ▶ You have to double the last letter of some verbs before you add **-ing**. For example:

get + ing = **getting** rob + ing = **robbing**

nod + ing = **nodding** stop + ing = **stopping**

jog + ing = **jogging** swim + ing = **swimming**

- ▶ Notice that the verbs above are all **short verbs** of just **one syllable**.

They all end with a **consonant** such as **b, d, g, m, p, t** and have only **one vowel** before the consonant.

- ▶ If a verb ends in **e**, you usually have to drop the **e** before you add **-ing**. For example:

chase + ing = chasing

cycle + ing = cycling

drive + ing = driving

smile + ing = smiling

Use the present progressive tense to talk about things you have planned to do, or things that are going to happen in the future. To form the present progressive tense, use **am**, **is** and **are** as **helping verbs** or **auxiliary verbs**.



When **are** you **taking** me to the zoo?



We **are having** a barbecue later this evening.

We **are going** camping tomorrow.

I'm **starting** piano lessons soon.

Jim's parents **are taking** him to Texas next week.

My favorite TV program **is starting** in a minute.

All our friends **are coming**.

Who's **bringing** salad for the barbecue? I **am**.

I **am visiting** Joe next week.

Where **are** you **going** for your vacation?

What **are** we **eating** for dinner?

Exercise 1

Write the *present participle* of these verbs on the blanks.

- | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|----|-------|-------|
| 1 | come | _____ | 7 | go | _____ |
| 2 | run | _____ | 8 | ask | _____ |
| 3 | sleep | _____ | 9 | catch | _____ |
| 4 | fall | _____ | 10 | write | _____ |
| 5 | jump | _____ | 11 | drop | _____ |
| 6 | climb | _____ | 12 | bring | _____ |

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the *present progressive tense* of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 They _____ the roller-coaster ride. (enjoy)
- 2 Jill _____ her hair. (wash)
- 3 It _____ dark. (get)
- 4 The dentist _____ Sue's teeth. (examine)
- 5 The train _____ through the tunnel. (pass)
- 6 The men _____ very hard in the sun. (work)
- 7 What _____ the theater _____ today? (show)
- 8 We _____ a snowman. (make)
- 9 The plane _____ above the clouds. (fly)
- 10 The teachers _____ a meeting. (have)

Have and Has

The verbs **have** and **has** are used to say what people own or possess. They are also used to talk about things that people do or get, such as illnesses. These words are the simple present tense of the verb **have**.



We **have** breakfast at 7:00 A.M.

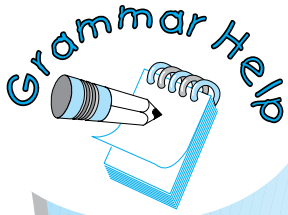
He **has** a lot of stamps.
She **has** long hair.
Our house **has** large windows.
I **have** a younger brother.
We **have** art lessons on Mondays.
Have a cookie, if you like.
Dad **has** a cold.
Jenny often **has** sandwiches for lunch.



Peter **has** a sore knee.



Monkeys **have** long tails.



Use **has** with **he, she, it**, and with **singular nouns**. Use **have** with **I, you, we, they**, and with **plural nouns**.

Here is a table to help you remember the rules:

	Singular	Plural
First person	I have	we have
Second person	you have	you have
Third person	he has she has it has	they have they have they have

Learn these contractions:

I have	=	I've
you have	=	you've
he has	=	he's
she has	=	she's
it has	=	it's
we have	=	we've
they have	=	they've
have not	=	haven't
has not	=	hasn't

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with *have* or *has*.

- 1 We _____ a new science teacher.
- 2 He _____ a bad temper.
- 3 I often _____ fruit for dessert.
- 4 You _____ a good chance of winning the prize.
- 5 She always _____ oatmeal for breakfast.
- 6 The broom _____ a blue handle.
- 7 They never _____ any problem with tests.

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with *have* or *has*.

- 1 The girls _____ golden hair.
- 2 An insect _____ six legs.
- 3 Dad _____ his cell phone with him.
- 4 The children _____ a new swing set.
- 5 Many poor people _____ nothing to eat.
- 6 Chicago _____ a very big airport.
- 7 A triangle _____ three sides.
- 8 The man _____ two daughters.
- 9 James _____ a toothache.
- 10 All the passengers _____ their tickets.

The Present Perfect Tense

Use the **present perfect tense** to talk about happenings in the past that explain or affect the present. The verbs **have** and **has** are used as “helping” or auxiliary verbs to form the present perfect tense.



It's **been** very wet today.



Kim's **cut** her finger.

Sam **has scored** two goals.

I've just **finished** my shower.

Uncle Tom **has lost** his wallet.

John **has gone** out.

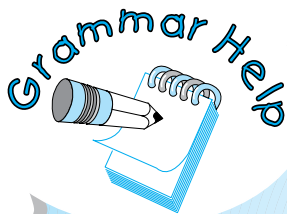
The Lees **have moved** to Ohio.

It **has not rained** for months.

Have you **found** your keys yet?

Tim **has made** two spelling mistakes.

They **have opened** a new shop.



To form the **present perfect tense** join **have** or **has** to the past participle of the verb:

have + past participle

has + past participle

The **past participle** of a regular verb usually ends in **-ed**, just like the simple past tense. But the past participles of irregular verbs don't follow this rule.

Exercise 1

Write the *past participle* of these verbs on the blanks.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1 break _____ | 6 buy _____ |
| 2 drink _____ | 7 find _____ |
| 3 cut _____ | 8 draw _____ |
| 4 do _____ | 9 hear _____ |
| 5 sing _____ | 10 know _____ |

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the *present perfect tense* of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 Dad _____ his car key. (lose)
- 2 All the guests _____. (arrive)
- 3 Tony _____ a goal. (score)
- 4 Peter _____ in the tent several times. (sleep)
- 5 It _____ not _____ for two months. (rain)
- 6 Some prisoners _____ from the prison. (escape)
- 7 The plane _____ at the airport. (land)
- 8 John _____ a puppet. (make)
- 9 Dad and I _____ a big fish. (catch)
- 10 I _____ this movie twice. (see)

The Simple Past Tense

Use the **simple past tense** to talk about things that happened in the past. The simple past tense is also used to talk about things that happened in stories.



The wicked Queen **gave** Snow White a poisoned apple.



Pinocchio's nose **grew** longer every time he told a lie.



Dinosaurs **lived** millions of years ago.

I **bought** a new camera last week.

Joe **learned** to play the guitar very quickly.

We **drove** to the safari park last weekend.

The giant panda **gave** birth to a cub last night.

Yesterday Dad **took** me to the carnival.

The plane **landed** a few minutes ago.

The children **visited** a farm during the holidays.

Who **invented** the computer?

Jack and Jill **went** up the hill.

Little Red Riding Hood **decided** to visit her grandmother.

The Three Bears **found** Goldilocks asleep in their house.

Regular and Irregular Verbs

The simple past tense of most verbs ends in **-ed**. These verbs are called **regular verbs**.

Spelling File

Base Form

aim

bake

open

happen

pull

push

scold

shout

visit

wait

walk

work

Simple Past

aimed

baked

opened

happened

pulled

pushed

scolded

shouted

visited

waited

walked

worked



Who **closed** all the windows?



It **snowed** last night.

Mom **opened** the door for us.

Sally **petted** the dog.

That event **happened** long ago.

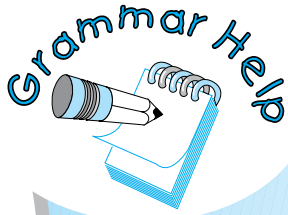
We **visited** our uncle last week.

They **walked** to school together yesterday.

They **worked** until twelve last night.

Dad **tried** to fix the light.

William Tell **aimed** at the apple on his son's head.



- ▶ The **simple past tense** is usually formed by adding **-ed** to the verb. For example:

jump + ed = jumped lift + ed = lifted
laugh + ed = laughed look + ed = looked

- ▶ If the verb ends with **-e**, just add **-d**. For example:

agree + d = agreed hate + d = hated
die + d = died live + d = lived

- ▶ Remember these spelling rules:

You must double the last letter of some verbs before adding **-ed**. For example:

fan + ed = fanned pat + ed = patted
grab + ed = grabbed rip + ed = ripped
nod + ed = nodded slam + ed = slammed

- ▶ Notice that the verbs above are all **short verbs** of just **one syllable**. They all end with a **consonant** such as **b, d, m, n, p, t**, and have only a **single vowel** before the consonant.

- ▶ With verbs that end in **-y**, change the **y** to **i** before adding **-ed**. For example:

bury + ed = buried fry + ed = fried
carry + ed = carried hurry + ed = hurried
cry + ed = cried try + ed = tried

The simple past form of some verbs does *not* end in **-ed**. Such verbs are called **irregular verbs**.

The simple past tense of some irregular verbs does *not* change at all.



David **hurt** his foot when he jumped over the drain.



The worker **cut** down the tree this morning.



Her ring **cost** only 10 dollars.

He **hit** the ball over the net.

Dad **read** to us last night.

He **shut** the door.

I **put** some sugar in my coffee.

Spelling File

Base Form

beat

burst

cost

cut

hit

hurt

put

read

split

shut

Simple Past

beat

burst

cost

cut

hit

hurt

put

read

split

shut

Most irregular verbs, however, take a different form in the simple past tense.



Sam **bent** the stick in two.

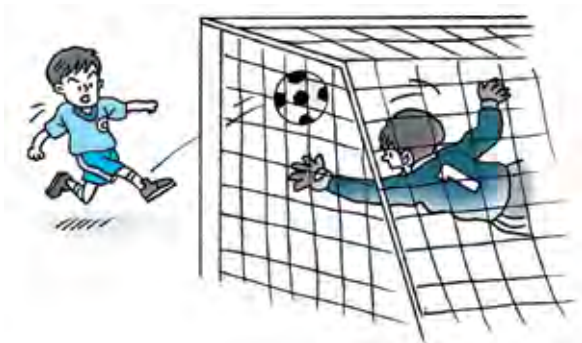
Spelling File

Base Form

bend
break
bring
buy
fall
fly
get
hear
keep
lose
sell
shoot
sleep

Simple Past

bent
broke
brought
bought
fell
flew
got
heard
kept
lost
sold
shot
slept



Tom **shot** and scored a goal.

I **lost** my pen on the bus.
We **sold** our car last week.
The baby **slept** right through the night.
Peter **got** a watch for his birthday.
I **heard** a noise in the night.
He **brought** his pet mouse to school.
My book **fell** off the desk.



A bird **flew** into the classroom.

Exercise 1

Write the *simple past tense* of these verbs on the blanks.

- | | | | | | |
|---|------|-------|----|-------|-------|
| 1 | take | _____ | 7 | tell | _____ |
| 2 | walk | _____ | 8 | write | _____ |
| 3 | rain | _____ | 9 | sit | _____ |
| 4 | shut | _____ | 10 | read | _____ |
| 5 | open | _____ | 11 | close | _____ |
| 6 | cry | _____ | 12 | cook | _____ |

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct *simple past tense* of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 She _____ home alone. (go)
- 2 The wind _____ throughout the night. (blow)
- 3 An apple _____ on his head. (drop)
- 4 The Princess's ball _____ into the well. (roll)
- 5 A frog _____ into the well and _____ it back to her. (jump/bring)
- 6 Jack _____ the highest grade in his English class. (get)
- 7 The party _____ at 8:00 P.M. (begin)
- 8 He _____ his old car and _____ a new one. (sell/buy)
- 9 Jack _____ up the ladder carefully. (climb)
- 10 Who _____ all the windows? (shut)

Was and Were

The verbs **was** and **were** are also forms of the verb **be**. **Was** is the simple past tense of **am** and **is**. Use **was** with the pronouns **I**, **he**, **she** and **it**, and with **singular nouns**.

Edison **was** a famous inventor.



Beethoven **was** a German composer.

Sue **was** at the library this morning.

It **was** very wet on Monday.

Ten years ago she **was** only a baby.

He **was** not well yesterday.

Last year she **wasn't** tall enough to reach the high shelf.

Samantha **was** second in the race, **wasn't she?**

Were is the simple past tense of **are**. Use **were** with the pronouns **you**, **we** and **they**, and with plural nouns.

These **were** my best jeans.

The Romans **were** brave soldiers.

They **were** third in the wheelbarrow race.

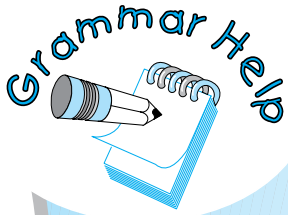
There **weren't** any clouds in the sky.

Were you still in bed when I phoned?

We **were** on the same school team.

Those **were** my best jeans.





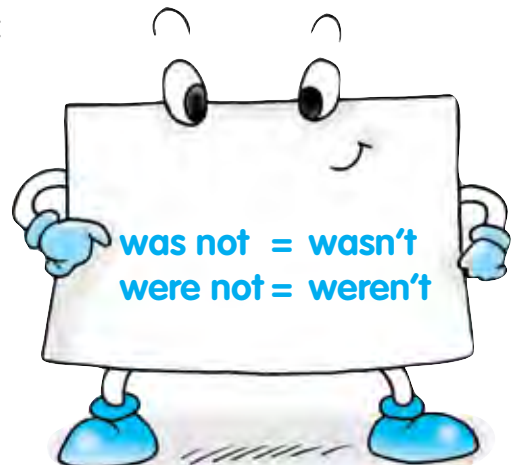
Here is a table to help you remember the rules:

	Singular	Plural
First person	I was	we were
Second person	you were	you were
Third person	he was she was it was	they were they were they were

Here's a table to show you the different forms of the verb **be**:

	Simple Present	Simple Past
First person singular	am	was
Second person singular	are	were
Third person singular	is	was
First person plural	are	were
Second person plural	are	were
Third person plural	are	were

Learn these contractions:



The Past Progressive Tense

Use the **past progressive tense** to talk about actions that were going on at a certain moment in the past.



Mary **was waiting** for the bus when Peter passed by.

Miss May **was cleaning** the chalkboard.

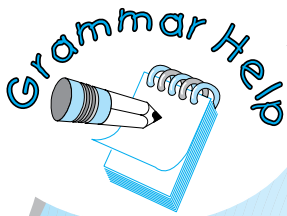
Sally **was packing** her books into her schoolbag.

Jenny and I **were tidying** the classroom.

The twins **were fighting** in the corner.

Michael and John **were washing** the paint brushes.

Mom **was cooking** our supper when I came home.



You form the **past progressive tense** like this:

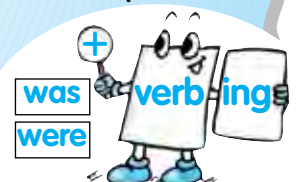
was + present participle

were + present participle

In the examples above, **was** and **were** are called **helping verbs**, or **auxiliary verbs**. They help to form the **past progressive tense** when you join them to the **present participle** (the form of verbs ending in **-ing**). For example:

Ben **was doing** his homework.

Peter **was making** a model of a bridge.



Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with **was** or **were**.

- 1 We _____ the champions last year.
- 2 Where is James? He _____ here just now.
- 3 Mom and Dad _____ on vacation last week.
- 4 The weather _____ fine this morning.
- 5 There _____ a lot of people at our party yesterday.
- 6 There _____ a small lake here many years ago.
- 7 He _____ sick yesterday.
- 8 Don't blame him. It _____ my mistake.

Exercise 2

When Miss May walked into the class what were the children doing? Fill in the blanks with the correct **past progressive tense** of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 James _____ to Peter. (talk)
- 2 Sue _____ a storybook. (read)
- 3 Rudy _____ the chalkboard. (erase)
- 4 David _____ his math exercise. (do)
- 5 Peter _____ Joe his new watch. (show)
- 6 Jane _____ a horse in her notebook. (draw)
- 7 Ahmad _____ for his pencil. (look)
- 8 Some children _____ a lot of noise. (make)

The Future Tense

Use the **future tense** for things that have not happened yet, but are going to happen.

Use the verbs **shall** and **will** as **helping verbs** or **auxiliary verbs** to form the future tense.



They **will finish** the job next week.



I **shall be** eight years old next year.



The weatherman says it **will rain** this afternoon.

We **shall play** a game of chess after lunch.

You **will be** sick if you eat too much.

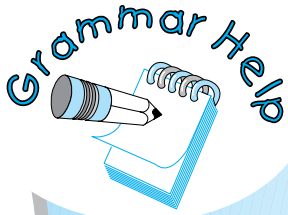
I hope it **won't rain** tomorrow.

Sharon is ill. She **will not be** at the party.

You **will enjoy** visiting New Zealand.

Dad **will be** back for dinner.

He **will make** lots of friends at his new school.



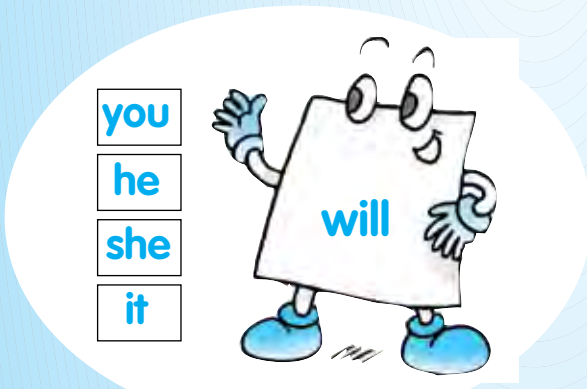
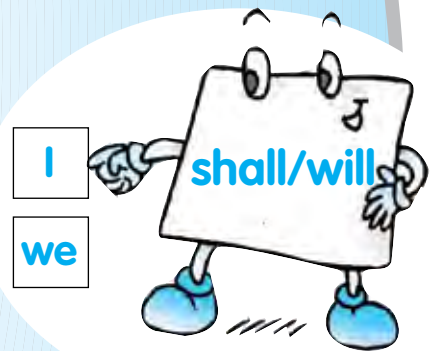
Use **shall** or **will** with **I** and **we**.
 Use **will** with **you, he, she, it** and **they**.

Here is a table to help you remember the rules:

	Singular	Plural
First person	I shall	we shall
	I will	we will
Second person	you will	you will
Third person	he will	they will
	she will	they will
	it will	they will

Learn these contractions:

I shall = I'll	we shall = we'll
I will = I'll	we will = we'll
you will = you'll	they will = they'll
he will = he'll	
she will = she'll	shall not = shan't
it will = it'll	will not = won't



There are other ways of talking about future actions and happenings.

You can use **going to**.



I think I'm **going to be** sick.

We **are going to bake** a cake this afternoon.

I'm sure Mom and Dad **are going to be** proud of me.

When **are you going to clean** your room?

They **are going to wash** the car for Dad.

It **is going to get** dark very soon.

You can also use the **simple present tense** to talk about things that have been arranged for the future.

The new supermarket **opens** tomorrow.

James **moves** to the second grade next year.

The new school year **starts** on Monday.

Next month I **go** to summer camp.

We **have** a history test next week.

The bus **leaves** in ten minutes.



Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct *future tense* of the verbs in brackets, using *shall* or *will*.

- 1 You _____ fat if you eat too many desserts. (grow)
- 2 The new school building _____ ready soon. (be)
- 3 We _____ to the zoo after breakfast. (go)
- 4 I _____ my bath before dinner. (take)
- 5 Peter _____ lots to do on his grandmother's farm. (find)
- 6 If we ask her, she _____ us how to play chess. (teach)
- 7 If he works hard, he _____ his exams. (pass)
- 8 _____ we _____ home now? (go)

Exercise 2

Complete these sentences by changing *shall* or *will* to the appropriate form of the verb *be + going to* (i.e., *am, is, or are + going to*).

- 1 They will be busy tomorrow.
They _____ be busy tomorrow.
- 2 I hope I will be ready on time.
I hope I _____ be ready on time.
- 3 We shall visit James this evening.
We _____ visit James this evening.
- 4 It will rain soon.
It _____ rain soon.
- 5 Dad will take us to the movies tomorrow.
Dad _____ take us to the movies tomorrow.

Can and Could

The verbs **can** and **could** are both **helping** or **auxiliary verbs**. Use **can** and **could** to talk about people's **ability** to do things.

Can and **could** are used with the pronouns **I, you, he, she, it, we** and **they**, and with **singular** or **plural nouns**.

Could is the past tense of **can**.



Jack ran as far as he **could**.



Some birds **cannot fly**.

He **can run** faster than Arthur.

She **cannot afford** such an expensive ring.

I'm full. I **can't eat** any more.

Can you help me?

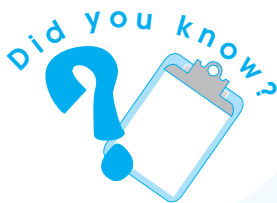
Can I come with you?

I knew you **could do** it if you tried.

She **could not come** because she was ill.

Miss Lee said we **could go** home early.

All the King's men **could not put** Humpty Dumpty together again.



People often use **can** when they are asking for permission to do something. For example:

Can I use your pen? Yes, here it is.

When you put **not** after **can**, you write it as one word: **cannot**

Learn these contractions: cannot = can't

could not = couldn't

May and Might

May and **might** are **helping** or **auxiliary verbs**, too.

- ▶ Use **may** to ask if you are allowed to do something, or to give someone permission to do something.



May I watch television now?
Yes, you **may**.

May I **borrow** your pen?
You **may come** in.
You **may go** now.

- ▶ **May** is also used to talk about things that are likely to happen.



Take an umbrella. It **may rain**.

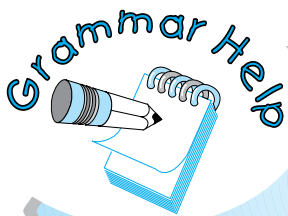
If it continues to rain, there **may be** a flood.

I **may go** to Sue's birthday party if I'm free.

You **may fall** down if you aren't careful.

- ▶ **Might** is used as the past tense of **may**.

He realized he **might catch** the earlier train if he hurried.
I knew my teacher **might find** out.



You can also use **might** to talk about things that are possible. For example:

Put your purse away or it **might get** stolen.
You **might slip**, so hold on to the railing.

Exercise

Fill in the blanks with *can*, *could*, *may* or *might*.

- 1 _____ you jump over the hurdle?
- 2 We ran as fast as we _____.
- 3 Some people _____ speak three languages.
- 4 Jean _____ dance quite well.
- 5 The man is shouting. He _____ need help.
- 6 If you hurry you _____ catch the train.
- 7 Dave doesn't look well. He _____ have a fever.
- 8 The baby is crying. She _____ be hungry.
- 9 _____ I borrow your bike?
- 10 I don't know where Jane is. You _____ find her in the library.
- 11 _____ you drive?
- 12 Who _____ answer the question?
- 13 _____ you show me the way to the zoo?
- 14 He _____ play the piano.

Do, Does and Did

Use **do**, **does** and **did** to talk about actions.

Use **do** with the pronouns **I**, **you**, **we** and **they**, and with **plural nouns**. Use **does** with the pronouns **he**, **she** and **it**, and **singular nouns**.

Did is the **simple past tense** of **do** and **does**.



Dad **does**
the dishes.



Mom **does**
the cooking.



We always
do exercise together.

He **does** such interesting work.

They **do** amazing tricks.



Who **did** this drawing?
Henry did.

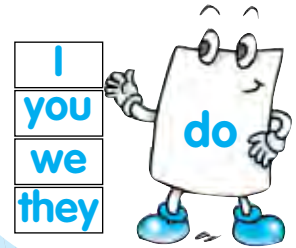
Sally **did** her hair in front
of the mirror.

They **did** the dusting and
cleaning.

Jane **did** all the laundry
by herself.

You **did** well in the test.

I **did** poorly on my exam.



- ▶ Here's a table to remind you about the use of **do** and **does**:

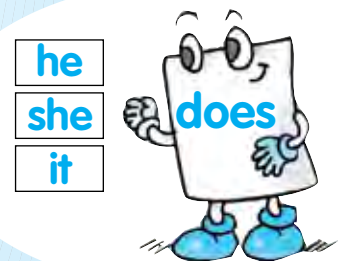
	Singular	Plural
First person	I do	we do
Second person	you do	you do
Third person	he does she does it does	they do they do they do

- ▶ Here's a table to remind you about the use of the verb **did**:

	Singular	Plural
First person	I did	we did
Second person	you did	you did
Third person	he did she did it did	they did they did they did

- ▶ Learn these contractions:

do not = don't
 does not = doesn't
 did not = didn't



You can also use **do**, **does** and **did** as **helping verbs** to ask and answer questions.



Where **did** you find the wallet?



Do ducks **like** water?
Yes, they **do**.

Do you **like** ice cream? Yes, I **do**.

Does it **rain** often here? Yes, it **does**.

Does he **enjoy** music? Yes, he **does**.

Did it **snow** last night? No, it **didn't**.

Who wants to come with me to the zoo? We all **do**!

What **do** you **want** for lunch?

Who broke this vase? Peter **did**!

Does Ken often **come** home late? Yes, he **does**.

Why **did** he **leave** so suddenly?

Does everyone **have** a dictionary?

Use **do not**, **does not** and **did not** to make other verbs negative.



The baby **does not look** very happy.



Dad **did not catch** his train.



The garden looks lovely, **doesn't** it? Yes, it **does**.

Cats **do not** like water.

I **don't enjoy** difficult math tests.

Sophie **doesn't want** to go to school.

He **didn't get** to the station in time.

Don't you have a ticket? No, I **don't**.

Don't they go to the gym on Mondays? Yes, they **do**.

Didn't they win? No, they **didn't**.

You **didn't draw** that picture yourself, **did** you?

Did you see the rainbow? No, I **didn't**.

Do not forget to switch off the air conditioner.

Don't tell lies!

Exercise

Fill in the blanks with *do*, *does* or *did*.

- 1 The shoes were too small. They _____ not fit me.
- 2 Jack _____ not do well on the exam last week.
- 3 Where _____ eggs come from?
- 4 The vase is broken. Who _____ that?
- 5 What _____ this word mean?
- 6 How _____ the computer work?
- 7 _____ he drink coffee?
- 8 Who _____ that drawing?
- 9 Where _____ you buy that dress?
- 10 How _____ you spell your name?
- 11 _____ not play on a busy street!
- 12 _____ your work quietly!
- 13 _____ a snake have legs?
- 14 He _____ not have any brothers.
- 15 _____ cats like to eat fish?

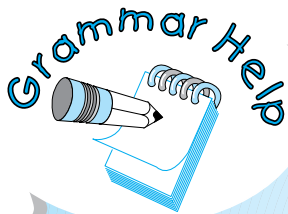
Would and Should

The verb **would** is another **helping** or **auxiliary verb**.
Use **would** as the past tense of **will**.



We started running so we **would get** there in time.

Peter said he **would come**.
I knew you **would enjoy** Disneyland.
The Prince said he **would** only **marry** a true princess.
John and Sue said they **would meet** me at the airport.
He promised he **wouldn't forget** her birthday.



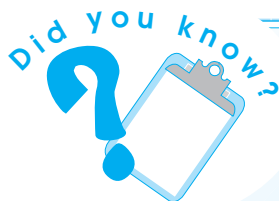
It is polite to use **would like** when you are offering people things, or asking for something yourself. For example:

Would you **like** a cup of coffee?

I am tired now. I **d like** a rest.

You **d like** a meal now, **wouldn't** you?

What color **would** you **like**?



When they are accepting an offer, people often use **would love** instead of **would like**.
For example:

Would you **like** a chocolate?

Yes, please, I **would love** one.

Should is a **helping** or **auxiliary verb**. Use **should** to talk about necessary actions or things that people ought to do.



Children **should not play** in traffic.



You **should** always **look** before crossing the street.

If you are tired you **should go** to bed early.

You **should know** how to spell your own name.

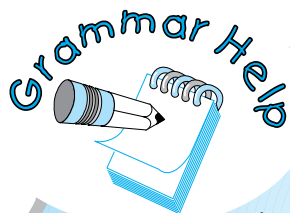
We **should** all **drink** more water.

You **should do** more exercise.

Should I **turn** off the computer when I'm not using it?

Shouldn't you **tell** your Mom if you're going out?

We **should** always thank people for presents, **shouldn't** we?



Learn these contractions:

I would = I'd

you would = you'd

he would = he'd

she would = she'd

we would = we'd

they would = they'd

should not = shouldn't

would not = wouldn't

Exercise

Fill in the blanks with *would* or *should*.

- 1 Every student _____ have a good dictionary.
- 2 _____ you like some coffee?
- 3 Yes, I _____ love a cup of coffee.
- 4 We _____ all learn good table manners.
- 5 We _____ like to go outdoors if it stops raining.
- 6 John said he _____ help me with science.
- 7 _____ you like to play a game with me?
- 8 Children _____ not watch too much television.
- 9 You _____ not play with fire.
- 10 He promised he _____ meet me after school.
- 11 We _____ not waste water.
- 12 You _____ all pay attention in class.
- 13 What _____ we do now?
- 14 _____ you help if I asked?
- 15 Of course, I _____ help you!