Standard English Verb Inflections



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Aim

- I can use the standard English forms of verb inflections.

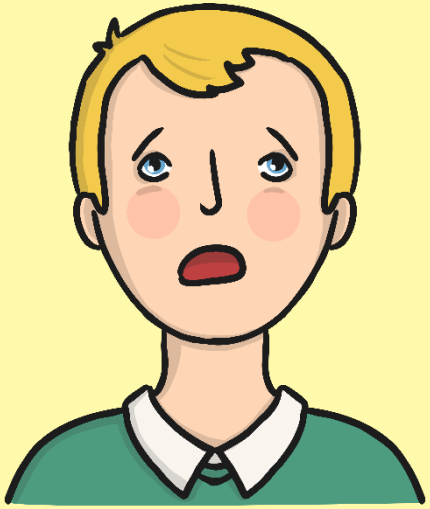
Success Criteria

- I can explain what inflections are.
- I can explain the difference between standard English and non-standard English.
- I can use correct subject-verb agreement for *was* and *were*.
- I can use standard English for *did* and *done*.

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Verb Inflections

Verbs are 'doing' words like **run**, **walk**, **learn** or **groan**.



Example: The boy **groaned** loudly.

Verbs are also 'being words' like **am**, **was**, **are** or **were**.



Example: I **am** tired.

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Verb Inflections

An inflection is a change in the form of a word to show a grammatical function such as change in tense.

Often an inflection is the change in the ending of a word.



Example: Kick**ed** is an inflection of the verb **kick.**

Some words change completely when inflected.



Example: **Went** is an inflection of **go.**

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Verb Inflections

Sometimes when you speak, you may use the locally-spoken/non-standard forms of verb inflections. However, when you are writing down the verb inflections, you should always use standard English. Standard English is often considered the 'correct' form of English, because it is grammatically correct and does not use any slang or dialect.
Standard English is used in formal situations, by public officials, and traditionally by the media.



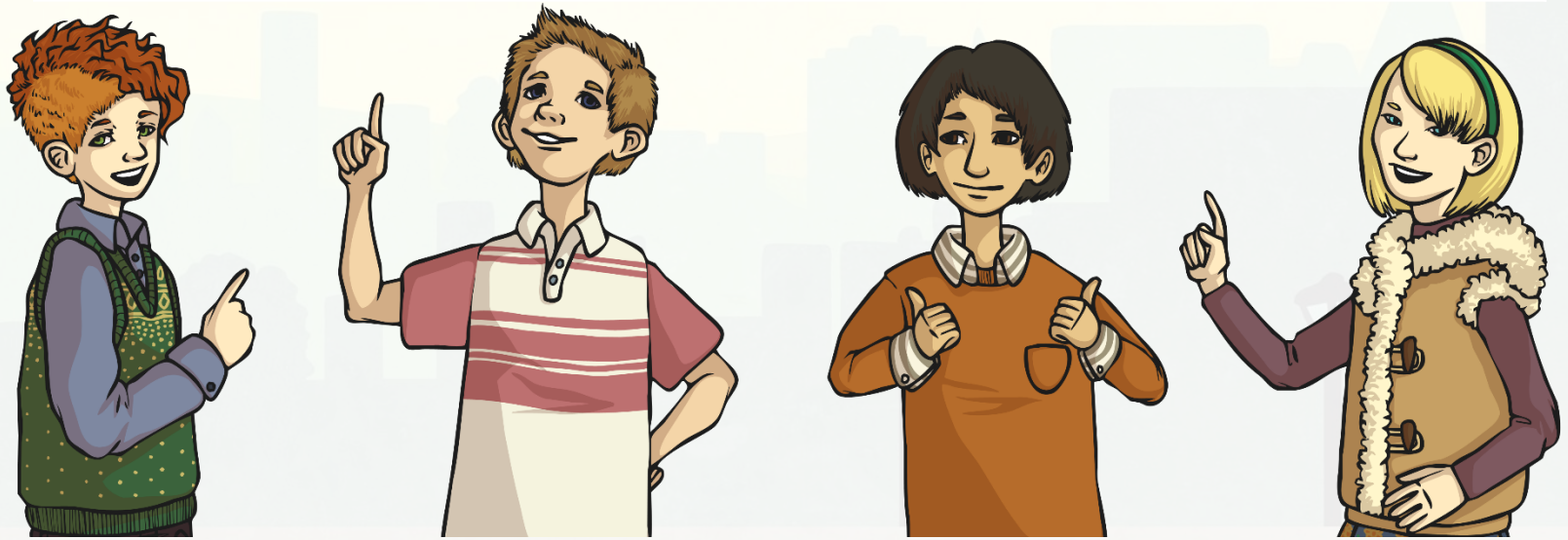
Locally-spoken/non standard	Standard English
we was	we were
I done	I did

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Verb Inflections

Can you think of any locally-spoken forms of verb inflections that you use?

Locally-spoken/non standard	Standard English
we was	we were
I done	I did



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Verb Inflections



Singular or plural?

A verb can be singular or plural, but it must match the subject to which it relates.

Rule

To help with correct verb agreement, the basic rule is:

- If the subject is singular (one) the verb must be singular;
- If the subject is plural (more than one) the verb must be plural.

Identifying the subject

The subject of a verb is normally the noun, noun phrase or pronoun that names the 'do-er' or 'be-er'.

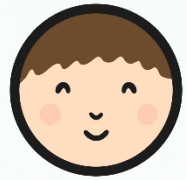
- Can you identify the subject in these sentences?
- Can you identify the verb in these sentences?

Examples of correct subject-verb agreement

1. He drives 50 miles every day. (singular subject; singular verb)
2. They ride the school bus in the afternoon. (plural subject; plural verb)
3. The scissors cut the paper. (plural subject; plural verb)

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Was or Were
Subject-Verb Agreement



Rule

To help with correct verb agreement, the basic rule is:

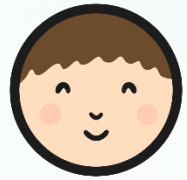
- If the subject is singular (one) the verb must be singular.
- If the subject is plural (more than one) the verb must be plural.

To form the plural of a verb in present tense, you should remove the **s** from the singular form.
Here are some examples on the right of verbs in their present tense singular and plural form.

Singular	Plural
becomes	become
catches	catch
drinks	drink
flies	fly
forgives	forgive
goes	go
hides	hide
leads	lead
rides	ride
seeks	seek
springs	spring
tears	tear
writes	write

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Was or Were
Subject-Verb Agreement



Was or Were Subject-Verb Agreement

The basic rule is that a singular subject takes a singular verb, while a plural subject takes a plural verb.

- Read the sentence.
- Decide whether the subject is singular or plural.
- Circle the correct verb.

was = singular were = plural

a) He (was/were) prepared for school.

b) We (was/were) scared of thunder.

c) I (was/were) excited about my new book.

d) We (was/were) playing together as a team.

e) She (was/were) my best friend.

f) We (was/were) excited about the championship game.

g) They (was/were) walking around the lake.

h) He (was/were) a very sensible member of the class.

i) Can you tell if they (was/were) prepared?

j) Who (was/were) with us at the birthday party?

Write four of your own sentences, like the examples above, which use the verbs *was* and *were* correctly.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Was or Were Subject-Verb Agreement

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Tenses

Each verb must express a tense to indicate when an action takes place.
Verb endings can change depending on the tense of the verb.

I walk to school.

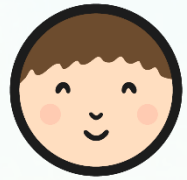


Yesterday I walked to school.

Did you notice that for the past tense, the inflectional ending is –ed?
This is the same for the most **regular** verbs.

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Tenses



Regular Verbs

- Some verbs follow rules and are **regular.**
- Regular verbs are verbs that form the past tense by adding the letter ‘d’ or ‘ed’ at the end, these then become inflections.
- Below are just a few examples of **regular** verbs with their inflections.

ask – asked
chase – chased
depend – depended
employ – employed
fade – faded
gaze – gazed
hand – handed
join – joined
kick – kicked
learn - learned

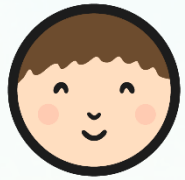


back – backed
chew – chewed
decide – decided
excuse – excused
fold – folded
guess – guessed
hunt – hunted
joke – joked
laugh - laughed



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Tenses



Some of the most common verbs are irregular verbs. Irregular verbs are unpredictable and take a variety of endings. Some change their spelling completely. Below are a few examples of irregular verbs with their simple past tense inflection.
Can you fill in the missing simple past tense inflection?

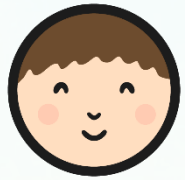
Irregular verb - infinitive form	Simple present	Simple past tense
be	am/is/are	was/were
break	break	broke
think	think	thought
bring	bring	brought
buy	buy	bought
choose	choose	chose
creep	creep	crept
drive	drive	drove
get	get	got
grow	grow	grew
fly	fly	flew
keep	keep	kept
do	do	did
go	go	went
know	know	knew

Infinitive = a verb's **infinitive** is the basic form used as the head-word in a dictionary. The infinitive form of a verb is the form which follows 'to':

- To ask
- To believe
- To cry

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Tenses



Verb Tenses Past and Present

Play this game with a partner.

- Cut out the sentences and shuffle them up.
- Put them face down on the table and take it in turns to turn over two sentences.
- If you turn over the same sentence in both the present and the past tense, then keep them up. If not, turn them face down again and continue the game.
- The winner is the person with the most pairs of sentences at the end.

Present Tense	Past Tense
Gemma goes to school.	Gemma went to school.
John digs the garden.	John dug the garden.
The spider creeps.	The spider crept.
Billy drives his car.	Billy drove his car.
Alice weeps.	Alice wept.
I fly in the sky.	I flew in the sky.
You swim in the sea.	You swam in the sea.
We write a postcard.	You wrote a postcard.

Verb Tenses Past and Present

1. Underline the present tense verb in each sentence. Then re-write the sentences with each verb changed into past tense and underline it. The first one is completed.

a) The man drives slowly.

The man drove slowly.

b) The children laugh at a picture.

c) She chases her brother.

d) The children bring their bags to school.

e) We eat our BBQ in the garden.

f) The sunflower grows taller and taller.

g) The girl keeps talking.

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Locally-Spoken or Standard English?



Recap: Inflections

An inflection is a change in the form of a word to show a grammatical function such as a change in tense.
Often an inflection is the change in the ending of a word.
Example: kick**ed** is an inflection of **kick**.

Some words change completely when inflected.
Example: **went** is an inflection of **go**.

Standard English

Sometimes when you speak, you may use locally-spoken/non-standard forms of verb inflections. However, when you are writing down the verbs you should always use standard English.

Locally-spoken/non standard	Standard English
I done	I did

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Locally-Spoken or Standard English?



Do – Does – Did – Done

To Do – VERB	Present Tense	Past Tense	Past Participle
I/you/we/they	Do	Did	Done
he/she/it	Does		

Which sentences use standard English?

1. I done my exercises.
2. I did my exercises.
3. I have done my exercises.
4. He done his homework.
5. They did their homework.
6. I do my homework today.

Past participle = **past participle** is a form of the verb but not a tense.
It cannot be used alone as a verb.

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Locally Spoken or Standard English?



We are going to make a list of verbs which have different past tenses or past participles in standard and the local dialects.
Which different situations would we use the different verb inflections?

Locally-spoken/non standard	Standard English

Past participle = **past participle** is a form of the verb but not a tense. It cannot be used alone as a verb.

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