Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Standard English Verb Inflections
Standard English Verb Inflections
Adverbs

Introductory Activity

Independent Focused Activity

Review Activity

Consolidation Activity

Assessment
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.
Introductory Activity
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.
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: Kicked is an inflection of the verb kick.

Some words change completely when inflected.

Example: Went is an inflection of go.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locally-spoken/non-standard</th>
<th>Standard English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>we was</td>
<td>we were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I done</td>
<td>I did</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Can you think of any locally-spoken forms of verb inflections that you use?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locally-spoken/non standard</th>
<th>Standard English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>we was</td>
<td>we were</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I done</td>
<td>I did</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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)
Independent Focused Activity
**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>becomes</td>
<td>become</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>catches</td>
<td>catch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drinks</td>
<td>drink</td>
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<tr>
<td>flies</td>
<td>fly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forgives</td>
<td>forgive</td>
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<tr>
<td>goes</td>
<td>go</td>
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<tr>
<td>hides</td>
<td>hide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leads</td>
<td>lead</td>
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<tr>
<td>rides</td>
<td>ride</td>
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<tr>
<td>seeks</td>
<td>seek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>springs</td>
<td>spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tears</td>
<td>tear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>writes</td>
<td>write</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

Can you tell if they (was/were) prepared?
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.
Assessment
Standard English Verb Inflections

Use all the information you have learnt and practiced about standard English verb inflections. Work on your own to complete the Mini Test.

Inverted Commas Mini Test

1. Look at the passage below. Change all the verbs from past tense to the present tense. One has been done for you.

   My mum's alarm clock woke me at seven.
   I pulled the pillow over my head and sighed.
   Suddenly, I spied my mum on the landing.
   "Great, so much for my lie-in," I thought.

2. Sort the past tense verbs from question 1 into regular and irregular.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Irregular</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. Complete the following sentences in standard English tense.

   He (arrive) most for the match.
   We (wash) going on holiday.
   I (finish) my homework.
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