

A state-of-being verb must agree with its subject. Regular verbs and most irregular verbs add an *-s* or *-es* to the present form when the subject is singular.

<b>EXAMPLE</b>	Singular Subject	Plural Subject
	Jack <b>looks</b> happy.	They <b>look</b> happy.

The past form of the verb stays the same for singular and plural subjects.

<b>EXAMPLE</b>	Singular Subject	Plural Subject
	Donna <b>looked</b> nice.	Both girls <b>looked</b> nice.

The verb *be* is an irregular verb.

Singular	Present	Past
First person	I am	I was
Second person	you are	you were
Third person	he is	he was
<b>Plural</b>		
First person	we are	we were
Second person	you are	you were
Third person	they are	they were

**Activity A** Each of these sentences contains a form of the verb *be*. Write the verb and its form on your paper.

**Example** He is Michelle's brother.  
is—third person, singular, present

- 1) I am busy today.
- 2) They were happy to get the award.
- 3) They are friends of mine.
- 4) She is a careful driver.
- 5) The crowd was anxious for the game to be over.
- 6) We were excited about our trip.

The past participle of *be* is *been*. Use *been* with *have*, *has*, and *had* to form the perfect tenses.

**EXAMPLES**

Fred **has been** sick.

They **have been** busy all day.

Mike **had been** their helper.

The present participle of *be* is *being*. Use *being* with the helping verb *be* to show the progressive form.

**EXAMPLES**

Donna **is being** nice.

Jack **was being** friendly.

**Activity B** Write the correct form of the verb *be* in each sentence on your paper.

- 1) Megan's report \_\_\_\_\_ due yesterday.
- 2) They \_\_\_\_\_ unhappy about my decision.
- 3) Has he ever \_\_\_\_\_ a teacher?
- 4) Yellowstone Park in Wyoming \_\_\_\_\_ a national park.
- 5) The children were \_\_\_\_\_ silly.
- 6) "You \_\_\_\_\_ our next patient," the nurse said.
- 7) I had never \_\_\_\_\_ a guest in their house before.

Use the verb *be* to show future tense and to show simple conditional forms.

**EXAMPLES**

Future: He **will be** home soon.

Conditional: Jamie **must be** late.

**Activity C** Write the correct form of the verb *be* in each sentence on your paper.

- 1) Will you \_\_\_\_\_ my project partner?
- 2) I should \_\_\_\_\_ more careful.
- 3) Must I always \_\_\_\_\_ the first one?
- 4) Can I \_\_\_\_\_ the last one?
- 5) Howard will \_\_\_\_\_ disappointed about the game.

Here are some common mistakes to avoid:

1. Sometimes people leave out the *be* verb or part of the verb phrase in a sentence.

**EXAMPLES**

- |            |                                 |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| Incorrect: | The quarterback fast!           |
| Correct:   | The quarterback <b>is</b> fast! |
| Incorrect: | I be ready soon.                |
| Correct:   | I <b>will be</b> ready soon.    |

2. Sometimes people use *be* instead of the correct present form.

**EXAMPLES**

- |            |                               |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Incorrect: | They be good friends.         |
| Correct:   | They <b>are</b> good friends. |
| Incorrect: | Roberto be my brother.        |
| Correct:   | Roberto <b>is</b> my brother. |

*Activity D* Each of these sentences contains a mistake with the use of the verb *be*. Write each sentence correctly on your paper.

- 1) "Where Roberto?" Stacy asked.
- 2) "They be practicing late today," she said.
- 3) "He be a good quarterback," Sam said.
- 4) "We be going to the mall after school."
- 5) "Roberto be tired after practice," Sam told her.

## Lesson 3 Review

**Lesson Review** Write the correct form of the verb *be* in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) In November there \_\_\_\_\_ a contest at Wilson High School.
- 2) Jun \_\_\_\_\_ entering the contest.
- 3) She wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ the winner of the band scholarship.
- 4) Her talent \_\_\_\_\_ playing the tuba.
- 5) Sixty other students \_\_\_\_\_ part of the contest.
- 6) On the night of the contest, Jun's parents \_\_\_\_\_ excited.
- 7) Before the contest, Jun had \_\_\_\_\_ nervous.
- 8) When she came on stage to play her tuba, she \_\_\_\_\_ calm.
- 9) Later, she \_\_\_\_\_ asked about her future plans.
- 10) She had \_\_\_\_\_ thinking about this a lot.
- 11) "Who will \_\_\_\_\_ the winner?"
- 12) Finally, the winners \_\_\_\_\_ announced.
- 13) "Jun Tan has \_\_\_\_\_ chosen as the winner of the Wilson High Band scholarship."
- 14) Mr. and Mrs. Tan \_\_\_\_\_ very proud.
- 15) So \_\_\_\_\_ her brother Adam.
- 16) Jun must \_\_\_\_\_ the happiest of all!