

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.

EXAMPLE

Singular Subject

Jack **looks** happy.

Plural Subject

They **look** happy.

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

EXAMPLE

Singular Subject

Donna **looked** nice.

Plural Subject

Both girls **looked** 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
Plural		
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 is fast! |
| Incorrect: | I be ready soon. |
| Correct: | I will be ready soon. |

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

EXAMPLES

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Incorrect: | They be good friends. |
| Correct: | They are good friends. |
| Incorrect: | Roberto be my brother. |
| Correct: | Roberto is 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!

Chapter 5 Review

Part A Write the verb or verb phrase in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) The last days of November grew cold.
- 2) Winter winds felt chilly.
- 3) The days were growing shorter.
- 4) The sky became dark early in the evening.
- 5) The cool air smelled fresh and clean.
- 6) On most days the sky was clear.
- 7) There was little rain that autumn.
- 8) Soon the first snowfall would come.
- 9) Everyone was feeling full of energy.
- 10) It was a pleasant time of the year.

Part B Write the verb or verb phrase in each of these sentences on your paper. Beside each verb or verb phrase, write whether it expresses *action* or a *state of being*.

- 1) The weather in December stayed cold.
- 2) People got out their winter coats.
- 3) "It gets cold earlier every year," Dave complained.
- 4) One day the sky looked gray.
- 5) "I can smell snow in the air," said Eli.
- 6) "It feels too cold for it to snow," Dave said.
- 7) "Hey! I felt a snowflake," said Eli.
- 8) They looked in Dave's garage for his sled.
- 9) The sky grew darker.
- 10) The snow was getting heavier.

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

- 1) "It definitely _____ snowing," Eli said.
- 2) "I _____ ready to go sledding," Dave said.
- 3) Soon the snow _____ deep enough.
- 4) They had _____ sledding for an hour.
- 5) They should _____ going home for dinner.

Part D Write the word that should appear in each sentence to make it correct.

- 1) Will Carol (be, been) at the meeting tomorrow?
- 2) She (be, is) almost always on time.
- 3) They (is, are) old friends of Jason's.
- 4) The puppy is (been, being) quiet today.
- 5) I (was, were) thinking about tomorrow's math test.
- 6) Everyone (was, were) happy about the news.
- 7) You have always (be, been) my best friend.
- 8) Al (seem, seems) glad about the new car.
- 9) Both of the pies (smell, smells) very good.
- 10) (Is, Are) your last name Miller?

Test Taking Tip

Spend time studying new material for several days or weeks before a test. Don't try to learn new material the night before a test.