

Standard English Verb Inflections

Aim

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

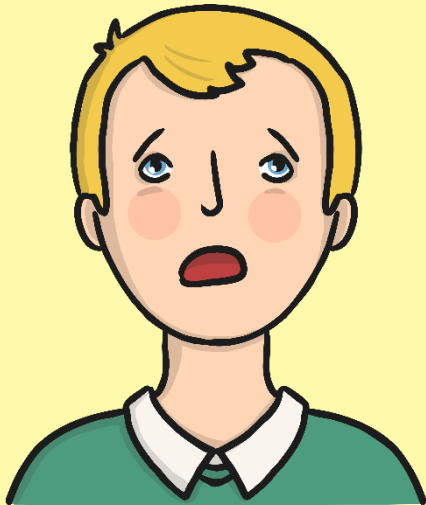
Success Criteria

- 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*.

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.



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

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

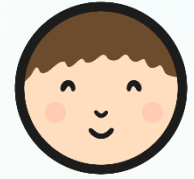
The subject of a verb is normally the noun, noun phrase or pronoun that names the 'do-er' or 'be-er'.

- 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)

Was or Were Subject-Verb Agreement



Rule

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

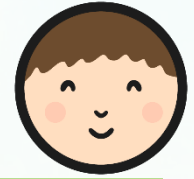
- If the subject is singular (one) the verb must be singular.
- If the subject is plural (more than one) the verb must be plural.

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

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.

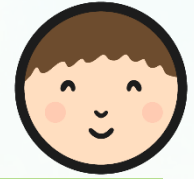
I walk to school.



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.

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

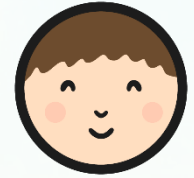
hunt – hunted

joke – joked

laugh – laughed



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

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: kicked**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

Locally-Spoken or Standard English?



Do – Does – Did – Done

To Do – VERB

Present Tense

Past Tense

Past Participle

I/you/we/they
he/she/it

Do
Does

Did

Done

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.