



Using the perfect participle

CAPS Statement

Language Structures & Conventions

Working with words and sentences

- Uses forms of the verb 'to be', e.g. be/been/being; am/is/ are; was/ were

Note

Verbs are words that describe an action. Verbs can change their tense depending when the action took place: in the past, present or future. The word before the verb is called the participle.

Past Tense

If we are writing a sentence in the past tense, we use **was** and **were** before the verb.

Example: The boy **was** wait**ing** in the rain.

You **were** sleep**ing** when I phoned.

-ing is usually added to the verb to show that the action took place in the past.

Present Tense

If an action takes place in the present, we use **am**, **is** or **are** before the verb.

Example: The boy **is** waiting in the rain.

I **am** sleeping.

The children **are** reading.

Future Tense

If we wanted to say that an action will take place at some point in the future, we would use **will be** before the verb.

Example: My gran **will be** waiting for me when I get home from school.

You **will not be** able to take part in fun games if you do not finish your homework.



Activity 1

Help Lerato choose the correct word to complete each sentence.
Underline the correct word in colour.

Example

You **was** / **were** having dinner when I knocked on the door.

- ① You **is** / **was** / **were** taking a nap when the window broke.
- ② I **was** / **were** reading a book when the dog barked.
- ③ The children **is** / **are** / **were** going to be in big trouble when the teacher got back.
- ④ **Were** / **was** you allowed to watch the movie at eight o'clock last night?
- ⑤ Gogo **is** / **was** angry because we walked mud through the house.

Activity 2

Look at the sentences below. Give the correct form of the word in brackets.

Example

I (read) in the park on Friday.

becomes:

I **will be read**ing in the park on Friday.

- ① I (work) in the shop tomorrow.

- ② I (take) a shower when the doorbell rang.

- ③ The family (walk) up to the waterfall at the weekend.

Teacher Tip

At the start of the lesson, generate a list of words that change when we change from past – present – future tense e.g. am/is/was/were/being/will be etc.

At the end of the lesson, display sentences with the incorrect tenses. Ask children to correct the sentences in pairs.

As an extension activity, ask learners to change a paragraph from their favourite book from past to present tense or from present tense to past tense.

