



To be or not to be

CAPS: Grade 5, Term 3

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

The verb: **to be**

Present tense: I am You are He / She / It is We / You / They are.....

Past tense: I was.... You were..... He / She / It was We / You / They were ...

Note: The first **you** is singular (one person). The second **you** is plural (more than one person)

Present: I am being...

Past: I have been...

Future: I will be...

You are being...

You have been...

You will be...

He / She is being...

He / She has been...

He / She will be...

We / You / They are being... We / You / They have been... We / You / They will be....

Activity 1

Present tense: Complete these sentences using *am, are* or *is*.

An example has been done for you.

Example

I _____ in Grade 5.

[**am; are; is**]

I **am** in Grade 5.

The boys _____ in Grade 5.

[**am; are; is**]

The boys **are** in Grade 5.

The pupil _____ in Grade 5.

[**am; are; is**]

The pupil **is** in Grade 5.

- ① I _____ happy to see you, Mrs Brown.
- ② You _____ first in class this term, Sandra. [you: singular – one person]
- ③ He _____ a good tennis player.
- ④ She _____ not coming to the party tomorrow.
- ⑤ We _____ going to town in the morning.
- ⑥ You _____ all welcome to swim in our pool. [you: plural – many people]
- ⑦ They _____ buying new chairs and desks for the school.



Activity 2

Past tense: Complete these sentences using *was* or *were*. An example has been done for you.

Example

He _____ first in line. [was, were] He **was** first in line.
They _____ last in line. [was, were] They **were** last in line.

- ① I _____ ten years old last March.
- ② Yesterday, you _____ late for History class.
- ③ Last night, he _____ having a bad dream.
- ④ She _____ a bridesmaid at her sister's wedding.
- ⑤ It _____ cold after this morning's snow storm.
- ⑥ We _____ going to buy a dog but didn't because we live in a flat.
- ⑦ I wish you _____ all coming with me on my holiday.



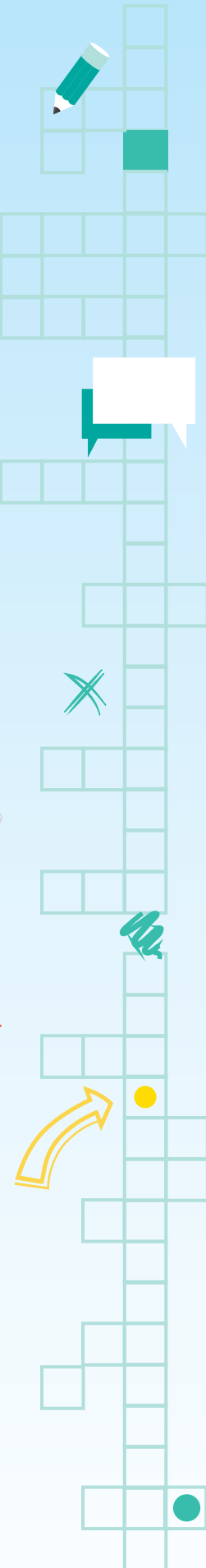
Activity 3

Proper names: Now you know the rules, *I, you, he, she, it, we, you, they* can be replaced by proper nouns. The work of the verbs remains the same. Use *am, are* or *is* to complete the sentences.

Example

[They] Barbara and Esmonde **are** living in Kloof.

- ① [He] Petros _____ a handsome man.
- ② [They] Shanleigh and Matthew _____ my friends.
- ③ [It] The truck _____ very heavy.
- ④ [We] Alison, Marywin and I _____ sisters.
- ⑤ [It] The test _____ not difficult if you study hard.
- ⑥ [She] Nurse Thembi _____ a very kind and caring person.





Activity 4

Present or Past: Look at the underlined verb and change it to past or present tense to complete each pair of sentences. An example has been done for you.

Example

Where is he going today? Where was he going yesterday?

	Present tense	Past tense
①	I <u>am</u> at school this morning.	I _____ at home yesterday afternoon.
②	What day _____ it today?	What day <u>was</u> it yesterday?
③	Where <u>is</u> Cherri today?	Where _____ Cherri yesterday?
④	Why _____ you laughing?	Why <u>were</u> you laughing last night?
⑤	The cows <u>are</u> in the field today.	The cows _____ in the field today.
⑥	What _____ that on your head?	What <u>was</u> that on your head this morning?

Activity 5

To be or not to be: Fill in the missing forms of *being, been, be*.
The first one has been done for you.

	Present tense	Past tense	Future tense
①	I <u>am being</u> good.	I <u>have been</u> good.	I <u>will be</u> good.
②	He <u>was being</u> silly.	He _____ silly.	He _____ silly.
③	They _____ talkative.	They <u>have been</u> talkative.	They _____ talkative.
④	The dog <u>is being</u> noisy.	The dog _____ noisy.	The dog _____ noisy.
⑤	You _____ sensible.	You _____ sensible	You <u>will not be</u> sensible.

Teacher Tip

The verb 'to be' is a very irregular verb and doesn't seem to follow any set pattern. The various forms simply have to be learned and come with practice.

