

Helping Verbs

Sung to the tune of "Jingle Bells"

Helping Verbs! Helping Verbs!
There are 23!
Am, is, are! Was and were!
Being, been, and be!
Have, has, had! Do, does, did!
Shall, should, will, and would!
There are 5 more helping verbs:
May, might, must, can, and could!

Helping Verbs can come before the main verb.

They help to show action or time.

Here are some common helping verbs.

am, is, are, was, were

Use "is" with singular subjects.

Example:

He is running in the race.

Katie is going to my house.

Use "are" with plural subjects.

Example:

We are making a scrapbook.

Kim and Jan are going to the party.

Use "am" when I is the subject.

Example:

I am finding pictures for the book.

Let's Practice and Learn!

Circle the form of the verb be that best completes each sentence.

1. Mary and Niles (**is, are, am**) going to try to find her dog.
2. Who (**is, are, am**) going to the movie?
3. Darin's bike (**is, are, am**) blue and white.
4. There (**is, are, am**) 19 children in our class.
5. How many people (**is, are, am**) in your class?
6. Our class (**is, are, am**) going on a picnic today.
7. I (**is, are, am**) writing big letters so my great grandmother can read them.
8. We (**is, are, am**) going to the mountains to see some snow.
9. Will you keep my dog while I (**is, are, am**) away?
10. My father's alarm clock (**is, are, am**) on the table.

More Practice

11. The baby hamsters **(is, are, am)** just one week old.
12. Rex **(is, are, am)** going to show Paul his new game.
13. I **(is, are, am)** the sixth girl in our family.
14. I **(is, are, am)** thankful for my family.
15. I can't read very well, but I **(is, are, am)** good at math.
16. Your toe **(is, are, am)** sticking through the hole in your shoe.
17. I **(is, are, am)** going swimming sometime during the summer.
18. Tests **(is, are, am)** given in our class.
19. My brothers are older than I **(is, are, am)**.
20. Mark and I **(is, are, am)** friends.

Use "was" with a singular subject.

Example:

Katie was looking for decorations.

Jim was watching the movie.

Use "were" with a plural subject.

Example:

We were reading that story in class.

Don and Jake were playing kickball.

Let's Practice and Learn!

Circle the form of the verb be that best completes each sentence.

1. Mr. Davis and his wife (**was, were**) at our party.
2. Charlie knew Chester when he (**was, were**) four years old.
3. Charlotte (**was, were**) Fern's pet pig.
4. Mrs. Johnson, our teacher, (**was, were**) sick today.
5. There (**was, were**) a fat clown and a thin clown at the circus
6. There (**was, were**) a large number of people at the play
7. His jokes (**was, were**) so funny we all had to laugh
8. Our outing at the lake was fun, but we (**was, were**) glad to get back home
9. When we (**was, were**) camping, we took a bath in the river
10. Janice (**was, were**) hopeful she would go to the party

More Practice

11. Once upon a time, there **(was, were)** a princess.
12. Eddie and Frank **(was, were)** very helpful at the party.
13. There **(was, were)** ants everywhere at the picnic.
14. Loretta **(was, were)** late because there was a traffic jam
15. No, I did not go to school yesterday because I **(was, were)** sick.
16. We **(was, were)** very sly about the surprise party.
17. He **(was, were)** talking during math class.
18. Mom said her eyes **(was, were)** very tired.
19. Anna's mom said her bedroom **(was, were)** a mess.
20. There **(was, were)** fast winds during the storm.

Linking Verbs

Linking verbs complete a thought.

The following verbs can be linking verbs:

am, is, are, was, were

I **am** hungry.

My cat **is** very pretty.

Sam and Dana **are** friends.

Lani **was** a funny girl.

We **were** lost.

Practice!

The ball (is, are) red.

The dogs (is, are) nice.

Maggie (is, are) my sister.

John (was, were) at home with the flu.

Jill and Jan (was, were) at the mall.

Go to www.edhelper.com
for more practice.

