

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Lesson: four tests for finding a verb

Read the green boxes out loud. Teaching notes are on page 2.

TEST 1: THE DO IT TEST

A verb is a word you can do

Stand up. Can you jump? Yes! So jump is a verb.

Can you chair? No! You can sit on a chair, but you cannot chair.

So chair is not a verb. If you can do it, it is a verb.

Now try these: eat, mango, run, blue, clap, table.

TEST 2: THE SNEAKY VERBS

Some verbs are hiding

I am happy. She is my sister. They are in Grade 2.

Nothing moves. Nobody does anything. But these are still verbs.

Chant it: I am. He is. She is. It is. You are. We are. They are.

TEST 3: THE HOPPING S

The s can only sit in one place

One dog barks. Two dogs bark.

See it? The s hopped. It sits on the naming word or on the verb,

but never on both at the same time. Try it: One bird flies. Two birds

TEST 4: THE YESTERDAY TEST

Put yesterday at the front and listen

Yesterday I walk to the shop. That sounds wrong.

Yesterday I walked to the shop. That sounds right!

The letters -ed mean it already finished. If the word ends in e, add only d.

Teaching tips for each test

- Do Test 1 standing up. Being asked to chair makes children laugh, and that is why they remember it.
- Test 2 is the one children get wrong, because is, am and are cannot be acted out. Chant them daily.
- Test 3 settles a real clash: on a naming word the s means many, but on a verb it means only one.
- Test 4 uses the ear rather than the rule. Children already hear that walk sounds wrong after yesterday.

Choosing between is, am and are

Use	With	Example
am	I, and only I	I am seven years old.
is	he, she, it, one person or thing	My dog is under the table.
are	you, we, they, any group	We are ready for school.

Where the s goes

One doing it	More than one doing it
Sara eats a mango.	The children eat mangoes.
The bus stops here.	The buses stop here.
A bird flies in the sky.	Birds fly in the sky.

A note on the hopping s

It works when the sentence starts with a naming word: a dog barks, dogs bark. It does not apply to I, you, we and they, which never put the s on the verb. No question in this worksheet mixes the two, so the trick is safe here. Level 2 introduces the full subject and verb agreement rule.

Coming up in Level 2 and Level 3

Helping verbs, irregular past tense such as go and went, and the twelve tenses come next. A child who can run these four tests is ready for them. All levels are free at numrahedu.com/english/verbs/

Part A: circle the verb (8 marks)

One word in each sentence is the doing word.

1. Ali runs to school. Verb:
2. The cat sleeps on the mat. Verb:
3. Emma paints a picture. Verb:
4. The bus stops at the corner. Verb:
5. My father drives a car. Verb:
6. Birds build nests in the tree. Verb:
7. The children clap their hands. Verb:
8. Zoya rides her bicycle to the park. Verb:

Part B: tick the action words (12 marks)

Tick the box only if you can act the word out.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ☐ jump | ☐ table | ☐ swim |
| ☐ happy | ☐ read | ☐ chair |
| ☐ dance | ☐ mango | ☐ write |
| ☐ kite | ☐ cook | ☐ blue |

Part C: write is, am or are (8 marks)

Look at who the sentence is about, then choose.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. I seven years old. | Answer: |
| 2. He my brother. | Answer: |
| 3. They in Grade 2. | Answer: |
| 4. We ready for school. | Answer: |
| 5. The dog under the table. | Answer: |
| 6. You very kind. | Answer: |
| 7. My shoes new. | Answer: |
| 8. It a sunny day. | Answer: |

Part D: one or more than one (6 marks)

Circle the correct verb. Decide whether it needs an s.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Birds in the sky. | fly / flies |
| 2. Sara a mango. | eat / eats |
| 3. My friends football after school. | play / plays |
| 4. The baby every night. | cry / cries |
| 5. The teacher on the board. | write / writes |
| 6. Those boys very fast. | run / runs |

Part E: past tense with -ed (6 marks)

Every sentence has already finished, so every verb needs -ed. Watch the spelling.

1. Yesterday I to the shop. **(walk)** Answer:
2. Last night she the door quietly. **(close)** Answer:
3. Last week we a new song. **(learn)** Answer:
4. Yesterday the class a poster for the wall. **(paint)** Answer:
5. Last night he his hands before dinner. **(wash)** Answer:
6. This morning they over the puddle. **(jump)** Answer:

Part F: write your own (bonus)

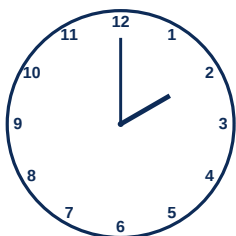
Use a different verb in every sentence. Underline the verb you used.

1. Write a sentence about something you do every morning.
.....
2. Write a sentence about something you did yesterday. Use a verb ending in -ed.
.....
3. Write a sentence using is, am or are.
.....

Bonus: the clock task

The clock shows home time. Write one sentence about it using an action verb.

For example: At two o'clock we walk home from school.



.....

.....

.....

For the teacher or parent

One mark is given for each correct verb. If a child is unsure, ask them to act the word out before you mark it.

Part A: circle the verb

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. runs | 5. drives |
| 2. sleeps | 6. build |
| 3. paints | 7. clap |
| 4. stops | 8. rides |

Part B: tick the action words

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. jump (tick) | 5. read (tick) | 9. write (tick) |
| 2. table (leave blank) | 6. chair (leave blank) | 10. kite (leave blank) |
| 3. swim (tick) | 7. dance (tick) | 11. cook (tick) |
| 4. happy (leave blank) | 8. mango (leave blank) | 12. blue (leave blank) |

Part C: is, am or are

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1. am | 5. is |
| 2. is | 6. are |
| 3. are | 7. are |
| 4. are | 8. is |

Part D: one or more than one

- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| 1. fly | 4. cries |
| 2. eats | 5. writes |
| 3. play | 6. run |

Part E: past tense

- | | |
|----------------------|------------|
| 1. walked | 4. painted |
| 2. closed | 5. washed |
| 3. learned or learnt | 6. jumped |

Part F and the bonus

Answers vary. Accept any sentence with one clear verb. Sample: At two o'clock we walk home from school.

Common mistakes to watch for

- Picking the naming word instead of the doing word, for example Ali instead of runs.
- Believing is, am and are are not verbs because nothing moves. They are being verbs.
- Putting the s on the wrong word. Only one of the two carries it: Sara eats, but the children eat.
- Writing closeed instead of closed. If the verb already ends in e, add only d.
- Using went, ate or ran in Part E. Those are correct English but they are irregular, taught in Level 2.

How to use this worksheet

- Read page 1 aloud together first. It takes about five minutes.
- Do Parts A and B in one sitting, then stop. Parts C to F suit a second sitting.
- Let the child play Verb Catcher online between the two sittings for quick recall practice.
- Print the flashcard pack for a word wall, a matching game or a charades style acting game.

What comes next

Level 2 covers the three simple tenses and the irregular past tense verbs such as go, went and eat, ate. It suits Grade 3 to 5, Class 3 to 5 and Year 4 to 6. Find it free at numrahedu.com/english/verbs/