

Unit 4: SUBJECT AND VERB

With past tense verbs, the formation of the verb is the same for all subjects. But in the present tense, the first word of the verb changes for 3rd person singular (Unit 2). However, the verb **be** is different.

All verbs except *be*

a PRESENT TENSE

3rd person singular (Unit 2)
We use the **s form** (Unit 14).

She **likes** hot weather.
This heater **uses** gas.
Kelly **has** allergies.
Does he need crutches?

All other persons
Use **base form** (Unit 14).

I **like** hot weather.
These heaters **use** gas.
They **have** allergies.
Do you need crutches?

NOTICE: Only the first word of the verb changes.

We say: The game has **finished**. NOT *has finisheds*
Does he **need** crutches? NOT *does he needs*

NOTICE: Modal verbs (Unit 27) do not have an **s** form.

We say: He **will** come. NOT *wills come*

b PAST TENSE

We use the past form (Unit 14) for all persons.

The verb *be*

	PRESENT TENSE	PAST TENSE
1ST PERSON SINGULAR	I am tired. I am going home.	I was tired. I was going home.
3RD PERSON SINGULAR	Maria is tired. She is going home.	Maria was tired. She was going home.
ALL OTHER PERSONS	You are tired. We are going home. They are sleeping.	You were tired. We were going home. They were sleeping.

NOTICE: The other forms of **be** (**be**, **been**, **being** - Unit 16) are the same for all persons.