

Finite and infinite verbs

Name: _____

1. Finite and infinite verbs

Finite verb:

A finite verb changes according to whether the subject is singular or plural.

For example: The dog walks. The dogs walk.

A finite verb changes according to the tense of the sentence.

For example: The dog walks (present tense) The dog walked (past tense)

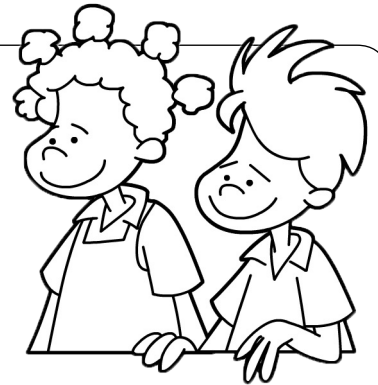
Infinite verbs:

An infinite verb doesn't change according to whether the subject is singular or plural. It often ends with 'ing' or is preceded by 'to'.

For example: The dog is walking. The dogs are walking.

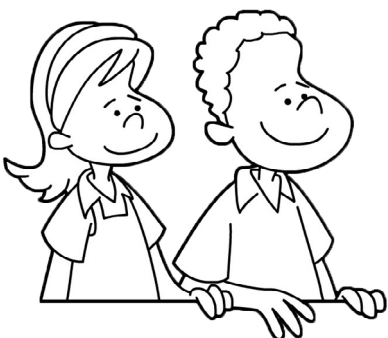
A finite verb doesn't change according to the tense of the sentence.

For example: The dogs are walking (present tense). The dogs were walking (past tense).



Underline the verbs in these sentences. Decide if the verbs are finite or infinite.

- a) He walks to work every day. _____
- b) She was running down the road. _____
- c) He spoke Afrikaans when he stayed with his granny. _____
- d) Leaving home for the first time can be very traumatic. _____
- e) She was watching television when the phone rang. _____



2. Subject-verb agreement

If the subject is singular (one person, one thing), the verb must be singular.

For example: The learner does his homework

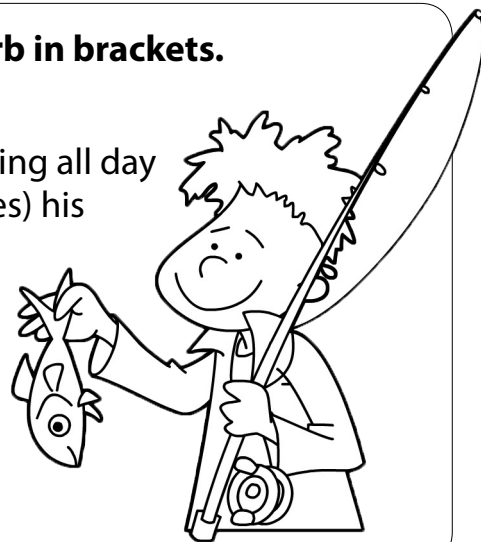
If the subject is plural (two people, two things), the verb must be plural.

For example: The learners do their homework.

Rewrite these sentences and choose the correct verb in brackets.

The Fisherman and the Little Fish

A fisherman (get/gets) up early to go fishing. After fishing all day he (was/were) hungry. Suddenly he felt a fish (bite/bites) his line. It (was/were) a little fish. The little fish (was/were) scared. He (tried/try) to trick the fisherman. He (ask/asks/asked) the fisherman to put him back in the river to grow bigger. He (say/said) the fisherman could catch him again when he (was/were) bigger. The fisherman (say/said) he had him now and he might not catch him again.



3. Stative verbs

Stative verbs are non-action verbs that show a permanent state. They are not usually used in the continuous tense (i.e. words ending in -ing)

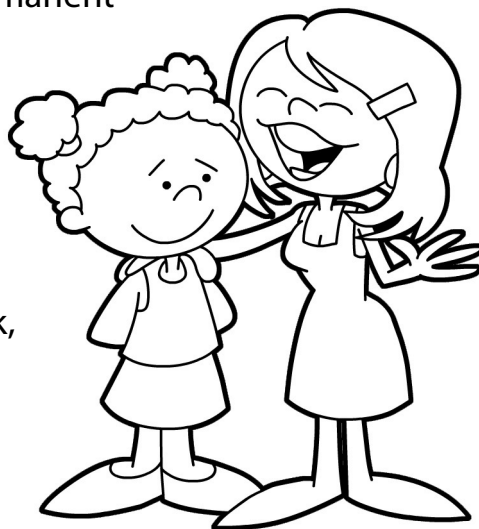
*For example: I love my family and **not** I am loving my family.*

Stative verbs are:

Verbs of senses: hear, see, smell, taste, feel

Verbs of opinion: like, dislike, think that, agree, think, know

Verbs of emotion: love, hate, need, want, forgive



Put the verb in these sentences into the correct form. Use either the present simple or the present continuous depending on whether they are stative verbs or not.

1. Do not make a noise because he is _____ (study).
2. She _____ (love) eating at her granny's house.
3. I _____ (think) that it is a hot day today.
4. The river _____ (flow) very fast today.
5. I _____ (smell) cakes baking.
6. He is in Cape Town. He _____ (stay) with friends.
7. He is a plumber but is isn't _____ (work) at the moment.