

Name _____

Date _____

TO BE A HELPER USING THE TO BE VERBS

What is a sentence without a verb? It's not a sentence. Every sentence must have a verb. In fact, some sentences have more than one verb. They have a main verb and a helping verb. The **main verb** shows the main *action* or *state of being* in a sentence.

A **helping verb** *helps* us know *when* the action of the verb happened. It shows us if the action is happening in the *present, past* or *future*. Some helping verbs tell us about the present. Other helping verbs tell us about the past. Many of these verbs are forms of the verb **to be**. There are eight **to be** verbs you can use. They are:

Am Are Is Was Were Be Been Being

Am, is and *are* tell us the action is happening in the *present*.

Was and *were* tell us the action has happened in the *past*.

These verbs are all *state of being* verbs. They can also do another job as helping verbs. Let's look at some examples.

He *is* sleepy. Here we use *is* as a *state of being* verb.

He *is* sleeping. Here we use *is* as a *helping verb*. It helps the main verb – *sleeping*.

Is can be used by itself in a sentence as a state of being verb. Or we can put it with an action verb to tell us more about *when* the action is happening. If we want to tell about an action happening in the *present*, we would use one of the helping verbs like this:

Shelly *is swimming* in Crystal Lake. The helping verb –*is*– tells us Shelly is swimming *now*.

If we want to write about swimming in the *past*, we would use a helping verb such as *was* or *were*.

We *were swimming* in Crystal Lake last summer.

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TO BE A HELPER USING THE TO BE VERBS Questions

A. What are the forms of the verb **to be** that begin with the letter **B**?
Write them on the lines below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

B. The sentences below are missing a helping verb. All of these actions are happening in the **present**. Use the correct form of the verb - to be - in each of these sentences. Remember *am*, *is* and *are* tell us about actions that happen in the *present*.
Write the correct helping verb on the line.

1. Today, I _____ baking a cake.
2. We _____ mixing the batter well.
3. Susan _____ reading the recipe.
4. Grandma _____ helping us.
5. "I _____ eating a big piece," John said.
6. We _____ cleaning up when we are finished.

C. The sentences below are missing a helping verb. All of these actions are happening in the **past**. Use the correct form of the verb – to be – in each of these sentences. Remember *was* and *were* tell us about actions that happened in the *past*. *Write the correct helping verb on the line.*

1. We _____ mixing a cake last Tuesday.
2. Grandma _____ helping.
3. Suddenly, the baby _____ covered in cake batter!
4. We _____ laughing so hard we couldn't stop.

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TO BE A HELPER
USING THE TO BE VERBS Questions (Cont'd)

D. Name two helping verbs that show action that happened in the past. Write them on the lines below.

1. _____

2. _____

E. Name three helping verbs that show action that happens in the present. Write them on the lines below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

F. Write your own sentences using the helping verb – *am*. Remember when you use this helping verb the action happens in the present.

1. _____

2. _____

G. Write your own sentences using the helping verb – *were*. Remember when you use this helping verb the action happens in the past.

1. _____

2. _____

H. Write the eight forms of the verb – **to be**?

1. _____

5. _____

2. _____

6. _____

3. _____

7. _____

4. _____

8. _____

TO BE A HELPER
USING THE TO BE VERBS Answers

A.

1. Be
2. Been
3. Being

B.

1. Today, I am baking a cake.
2. We are mixing the batter well.
3. Susan is reading the recipe.
4. Grandma is helping us.
5. "I am eating a big piece," John said.
6. We are cleaning up when we are finished.

C.

1. We were mixing a cake last Tuesday.
2. Grandma was helping.
3. Suddenly, the baby was covered in cake batter!
4. We were laughing so hard we couldn't stop.

D.

1. Was
2. Were

E.

1. Am
2. Is
3. Are

F. Answers will vary.

G. Answers will vary.

H. Order will vary

- | | |
|--------|----------|
| 1. Am | 5. Be |
| 2. Is | 6. Been |
| 3. Are | 7. Being |
| 4. Was | 8. Were |