## Year 4

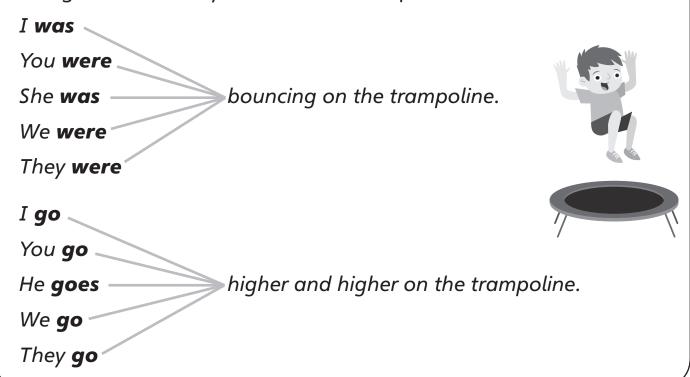
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# Standard English

# Rule

People often use non-Standard English when they speak, but in most writing and in formal speech you should use Standard English. In Standard English, verbs change depending on who or what is doing the action they describe. For example,



abc

**verb**: a word used to name an action or a state, for example: *jump*, *be*, *happen* 

**Standard English**: formal or informal language that is grammatically correct and does not include slang and dialect words

**non-Standard English**: language that is grammatically incorrect and includes slang and dialect words

**formal language**: the language you would use in a formal situation, for example a speech or an important letter

### Match the answers

We were late. Standard English
We was late. non-Standard English

You was early.
You were early.
Standard English
non-Standard English

They was running. Standard English
They were running. non-Standard English

He was walking quickly.

Standard English

He were walking quickly.

non-Standard English

I was walking quickly.

I were walking quickly.

Standard English
non-Standard English

# Circle the correct Standard English verb form

I go out.
I goes out.
I going out.

2 She go in. She going in. She goes in.

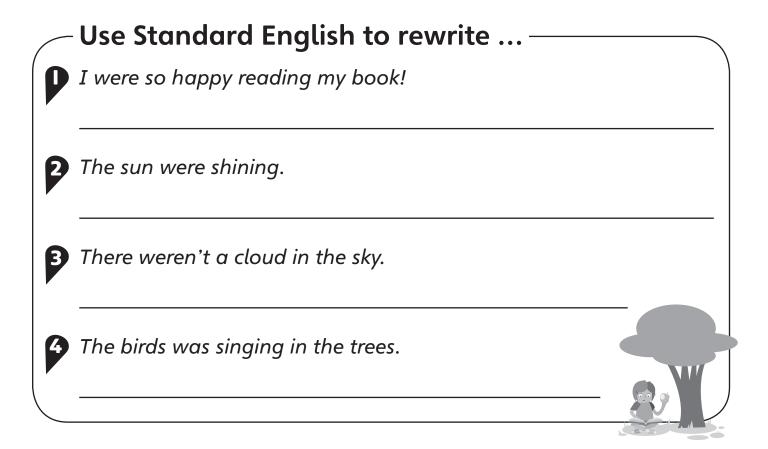
3 We say sorry. We says sorry. We was saying sorry.

We have done it. We done it. We has done it.

**5** We was busy. You was busy. He was busy.

Which one would you use if you were writing a letter to your headteacher?

Complete the sentence using Standard English verb form	<b>a</b> —		
We went to the cinema and watched a film whichreally good.			
After the film, we hung	gry so we went for a pizza.		
We did not order a dessert because we completely full!			
Then my little sister started crying			
because she so tired.	You will need to use forms of the yerbs be (for		



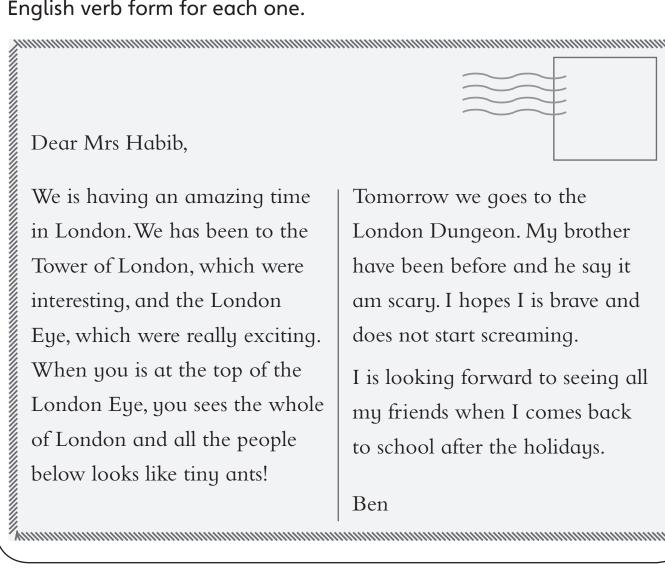
I \_\_\_\_\_\_ to my mum, "We should have left her at home!"

example, was and were) and say.

# Correct the verbs

Ben's postcard to his teacher is full of interesting details about his trip to London, but he has not written it in Standard English.

Underline all the non-Standard English verbs. Then add the Standard English verb form for each one.





# Write your own postcard

Now that you have perfected Ben's postcard, write your own postcard in your book, telling someone you know about an interesting place you have visited. Use at least five Standard English verb forms in your writing.

> You could write about a holiday, or a visit to somewhere near where you live.

# **Answers**

#### Page 19

#### **Activity I**

- We were late. → Standard English We was late. → non-Standard English
- 2 You was early. → non-Standard English You were early. → Standard English
- 3 They was running. → non-Standard English They were running. → Standard English
- **4** He was walking quickly. → Standard English He were walking quickly. → non-Standard English
- 5 I was walking quickly. → Standard English I were walking quickly. → non-standard English

You might use non-standard English when you are talking to people you know well, but it is important to be able to use standard English in your writing.

#### **Activity 2**

- I go out.
- 2 She goes in.
- **3** We say sorry.
- 4 We have done it.
- **5** He was busy.

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#### **Activity I**

- I We went to the cinema and watched a film which was really good.
- **2** After the film, we <u>were</u> hungry so we went for a pizza.
- 3 We did not order a dessert because we were completely full!
- **4** Then my little sister started crying because she <u>was</u> so tired.
- **5** I <u>said</u> to my mum, "We should have left her at home!"

#### **Activity 2**

- I I was so happy reading my book!
- **2** The sun was shining.
- **3** There wasn't a cloud in the sky.
- **4** The birds were singing in the trees.

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#### **Activity I**

- ... We <u>are</u> having an amazing time ...
- ... We <u>have</u> been to the Tower of London, which <u>was</u> interesting ...
- ... London Eye which <u>was</u> really exciting. When you <u>are</u> at the top ...
- ... you see the whole of London and all the people below look like tiny ants! ...
- ... Tomorrow we <u>go</u> to the London Dungeon. My brother <u>has</u> been before and he <u>says</u> it is scary ...
- ... I hope I am brave and do not start screaming ...
- ... I <u>am</u> looking forward to seeing my friends when I <u>come</u> back to school ...

#### **Activity 2**

Use this checklist to mark your answer. My postcard ...

- ... describes the place you visited ... explains what you did there
  - ] ... correctly uses at least five Standard English verb forms.

To be is a tricky but very common irregular verb.
Make sure you learn it.

Ben is writing to his teacher,

so he needs to use formal

standard English.



# pinpoint ENGLISH

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