Is, Am, Are: Copula and Auxiliary Worksheet



When "be" is the whole verb, and when it is helping another verb.

MASTERED BY

Brown places the uncontractible copula ("yes, he is") at roughly 2;3 to 3;3 and the contractible copula ("he's happy") a little later

ITEMS

143

Name: _____ Date: _____

The verb "be" does two different jobs. Sometimes it IS the verb, with nothing else to help - "she is happy", "they are hungry". That use is called the copula: it links the subject to a description. Other times it is helping another verb along - "she is running", "they are eating". That use is called the auxiliary, and you can spot it because there is always another verb with -ing right behind it.

What to expect: Both forms get left out early on: "she happy", "he running". A useful thing to listen for is whether the child drops the form that can be shortened or the one that cannot. "He's happy" can contract; the "is" in "Yes, he is" cannot, because there is nothing after it to attach to. The uncontractible forms are typically produced correctly first, which is why a child may answer "Is he sleeping?" with a clear "he is" while still saying "he sleeping" in running speech.

Be as the Whole Verb (Copula)

There is no other verb in these sentences. Fill in the blank with is, am or are.

1. The soup ____ hot. 
2. I ____ six years old today, and this is my cake. 
3. My shoes ____ muddy. 
4. That dog ____ friendly. 
5. We ____ ready - everyone has their backpack. 
6. You ____ my best friend. 

7. The sky ____ cloudy today. 

8. My hands ____ cold. 

9. I ____ hungry. 

10. The twins ____ in the same class. 

Be as the Whole Verb (Copula): Round 2

Be is the whole verb here - it joins the thing to what it is like. Say the whole sentence.

11. The milk ____ cold. 

12. My shoes ____ wet. 

13. I ____ hungry. 

14. The cat ____ asleep. 

15. The cookies ____ hot. 

16. You ____ tall.

17. The bird ____ loud. 

18. We ____ ready for the bus. 

19. The bag ____ heavy. 

20. My hands ____ dirty. 

Be as the Whole Verb (Copula): Round 3

Be is the whole verb here - it joins the thing to what it is like. Say the whole sentence.

21 The water ____ warm. 

22 The blocks ____ under the bed. 

23 I ____ cold. 

24 The dog ____ in the yard. 

25 Those apples ____ green. 

26 You ____ my friend. 

27 The kite ____ high up. 

28 We ____ late for the bus. 

29 The spoon ____ in the drawer. 

30 My socks ____ on the chair. 

Be as the Whole Verb (Copula): Round 4

Be is the whole verb here - it joins the thing to what it is like. Say the whole sentence.

31 The bread ____ fresh. 

32 The towels ____ in the bathroom. 

33 I ____ tired. 

34 The truck ____ red. 

35 Those flowers ____ pretty. 

36 You ____ next on the swing. 

37 The cup ____ empty. 

38 We ____ outside in the yard. 

39 My brother ____ six. 

40 The books ____ heavy. 

Be Helping Another Verb (Auxiliary)

Each sentence has another verb ending in -ing. Fill in the blank with is, am or are.

41 The baby ____ sleeping. 

42 I ____ building a tower. 

43 The kids ____ running outside. 

44 My dog ____ barking at the door. 

45 We ____ making cookies. 

46 You ____ standing on my foot. 

47 Dad ____ washing the car. 

48 The birds ____ singing. 

49 I ____ waiting for my turn on the slide. 

50 My sister ____ reading in bed. 

Be Helping Another Verb (Auxiliary): Round 2

Be is helping the -ing verb. Say the whole sentence.

51 The dog ____ barking. 

52 The kids ____ running. 

53 I ____ reading. 

54 The baby ____ crying. 

55 We ____ eating lunch. 

56 You ____ singing. 

57 The car ____ stopping. 

58 My sisters ____ swimming. 

59 The bird ____ flying away.



60 I ____ washing my hands.



Be Helping Another Verb (Auxiliary): Round 3

Be is helping the -ing verb. Say the whole sentence.

61 Mom ____ cooking.



62 The boys ____ digging.



63 I ____ drawing a bird.



64 The cat ____ sleeping on the bed.



65 We ____ building a fort.



66 You ____ brushing your teeth.



67 The kite ____ going up.



68 The twins ____ sharing the drum.



69 Dad ____ fixing the bike.



70 I ____ pouring the milk.



Be Helping Another Verb (Auxiliary): Round 4

Be is helping the -ing verb. Say the whole sentence.

71 Grandma ____ planting flowers.



72 The dogs ____ drinking water.



73 I ____ tying my shoes.



74 The train ____ coming.



75 We ____ packing our bags.



76 You ____ wearing my hat.



77 The fish ____ swimming in its bowl.



78 My cousins ____ playing outside.



79 Ben ____ riding his bike.



80 I ____ carrying the box.



Which Job Is It Doing?

Say whether "be" is the whole verb or is helping another verb.

81 She is tired.



82 She is riding her bike.



83 They are hungry.



84 They are eating.



85 I am cold.



86 I am shivering without my coat.



87 The cat is asleep.



88 The cat is purring.



Which Job Is It Doing?: Round 2

Is "be" the whole verb, or is it helping another verb?

89 The soup is hot.



90 The baby is sleeping.



91 My shoes are wet.



92 The kids are running.



93 I am hungry.



94 We are eating.



95 The dog is loud.



96 Mom is driving.



Which Job Is It Doing?: Round 3

Is "be" the whole verb, or is it helping another verb?

97 The cup is empty.



98 The bird is flying.



99 You are tall.

100 The twins are digging.



101 The bread is fresh.



102 I am reading.



103 The blocks are heavy.



104 Dad is fixing the bike.



Short Answers

Answer each question with a short answer. These are the forms that cannot be shortened.

105 Is the dog sleeping? (yes)



106 Are you ready for the pool? (yes)



107 Is your sister home? (yes)



108 Are the cookies done? (no)



109 Am I next on the swing? (yes)



110 Are they coming to the park with us? (yes)



Short Answers: Round 2

Answer the short way, the way people really answer: "Yes, it is."

111 Is the cat asleep? (yes)



112 Are the cookies hot? (no)



113 Am I next for the swing? (yes)



114 Is Dad driving? (yes)



115 Are you eating? (no)



116 Is the bag heavy? (no)



Short Answers: Round 3

Answer the short way, the way people really answer: "Yes, it is."

117 Is the milk cold? (yes)



118 Are the kids running? (yes)



119 Is Mom in the kitchen? (no)



120 Are we late for the bus? (no)



121 Is the bird singing? (yes)



122 Are your hands clean? (yes)



Shorten It

Say each sentence again using the shortened form.

123 She is my sister.



124 They are at the park.



125 I am almost finished with my puzzle.



126 He is running fast.



127 We are going home.



128 It is raining on my umbrella.



129 You are being silly.



Shorten It: Round 2

Say it again with the two words squashed into one.

130 He is my brother.



131 They are in the yard.



132 I am ready for school.



133 It is cold outside.



134 We are eating lunch.



135 She is brushing her hair.



136 You are next on the slide.



Shorten It: Round 3

Say it again with the two words squashed into one.

137 She is my teacher.



138 We are going to the park.



139 It is raining on the garden.



140 I am washing the cup.



141 They are asleep.



142 He is riding his bike.



143 You are holding my hat.



Answer Key

Be as the Whole Verb (Copula)

1. is
2. am
3. are
4. is
5. are
6. are
7. is
8. are
9. am
10. are

Be as the Whole Verb (Copula): Round 2

11. is
12. are
13. am
14. is
15. are
16. are
17. is
18. are
19. is
20. are

Be as the Whole Verb (Copula): Round 3

21. is
22. are
23. am
24. is
25. are
26. are
27. is
28. are
29. is
30. are

Be as the Whole Verb (Copula): Round 4

31. is
32. are
33. am
34. is
35. are
36. are
37. is
38. are
39. is
40. are

Be Helping Another Verb (Auxiliary)

41. is
42. am
43. are
44. is
45. are
46. are
47. is
48. are
49. am
50. is

Be Helping Another Verb (Auxiliary): Round 2

51. is
52. are

53. am
54. is
55. are
56. are
57. is
58. are
59. is
60. am

Be Helping Another Verb (Auxiliary): Round 3

61. is
62. are
63. am
64. is
65. are
66. are
67. is
68. are
69. is
70. am

Be Helping Another Verb (Auxiliary): Round 4

71. is
72. are
73. am
74. is
75. are
76. are
77. is
78. are
79. is
80. am

Which Job Is It Doing?

81. the whole verb
82. helping another verb
83. the whole verb
84. helping another verb
85. the whole verb
86. helping another verb
87. the whole verb
88. helping another verb

Which Job Is It Doing?: Round 2

89. The whole verb
90. Helping another verb
91. The whole verb
92. Helping another verb
93. The whole verb
94. Helping another verb
95. The whole verb
96. Helping another verb

Which Job Is It Doing?: Round 3

97. The whole verb
98. Helping another verb
99. The whole verb
100. Helping another verb
101. The whole verb
102. Helping another verb
103. The whole verb
104. Helping another verb

Short Answers

105. Yes, it is.
106. Yes, I am.

107. Yes, she is.
108. No, they are not.
109. Yes, you are.
110. Yes, they are.

Short Answers: Round 2

111. Yes, it is.
112. No, they are not.
113. Yes, you are.
114. Yes, he is.
115. No, I am not.
116. No, it is not.

Short Answers: Round 3

117. Yes, it is.
118. Yes, they are.
119. No, she is not.
120. No, we are not.
121. Yes, it is.
122. Yes, they are.

Shorten It

123. She's my sister.
124. They're at the park.
125. I'm almost finished with my puzzle.
126. He's running fast.
127. We're going home.
128. It's raining on my umbrella.
129. You're being silly.

Shorten It: Round 2

130. He's my brother.
131. They're in the yard.
132. I'm ready for school.
133. It's cold outside.
134. We're eating lunch.
135. She's brushing her hair.
136. You're next on the slide.

Shorten It: Round 3

137. She's my teacher.
138. We're going to the park.
139. It's raining on the garden.
140. I'm washing the cup.
141. They're asleep.
142. He's riding his bike.
143. You're holding my hat.