

Verb Conjugation - Person

Introduction

1) Verb conjugation refers to how a verb changes to indicate a different person, number, tense, or mood.

I'm a student. (1st person, singular, present simple, indicative mood)

2) Verbs should be conjugated with regards to person. Depending on the subject, a verb can stand in the first, second, or third person. Study the following table:

	singular	plural
1 st person	I	we
2 nd person	you	you
3 rd person	he, she, it	they

As you can see, the pronouns *I*, *we* refer to the first person; *you* – to the second person; *he*, *she*, *it*, *they* – to the third person.

We work on Saturdays. (first person)

You need to take a break. (second person)

It is snowing outside. (third person)

Usually we assume the person of the verb in the sentence automatically as we almost always state a subject explicitly.

*Sarah has signed up for a yoga class. (**Sarah** can be substituted with the pronoun **she**; the verb is in the third person)*

Note that the verb *to be* is irregular and has 3 forms in present tenses and 2 forms in past tenses. These forms depend on the person expressed by the subject.

	present		past	
1 st person	I am	we are	I was	we were
2 nd person	you are	you are	you were	you were
3 rd person	he/she/it is	they are	he/she/it was	they were

Short Story Dialogue

– *When I was your age, I wanted to become a nurse. I liked the idea of helping people when they need it the most.*

– *Why aren't you a nurse then, grandma?*

– *Well, sweetie, we grow up, and sometimes our goals change. I'm a teacher now, and I have never regretted my choice.*

– *And you are helping people anyway!*

– *That's true!*

Independent Practice - Verb Conjugation - Person

1) Decide whether the verb stands in the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd person.

- Why can't we find a common ground?
- You should be attentive to details.
- These jeans are too tight!
- I was too shy to say a word.
- The Potts will be attending the ceremony as well.

2) Fill in the gaps with the verb *to be* in the correct form.

- You must kidding me! How this possible?
- If we invited, we need to think of a present.
- We have here go ages! We can't wait any longer.
- Someone called you when you running outside.
- I so frustrated! Why it so difficult to find a paid internship now?

Independent Practice: Answers - Verb Conjugation - Person

1) Decide whether the verb stands in the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd person.

- a. Why can't we find a common ground? (1st person)
- b. You should be attentive to details. (2nd person)
- c. These jeans are too tight! (3rd person)
- d. I was too shy to say a word. (1st person)
- e. The Potts will be attending the ceremony as well. (3rd person)

2) Fill in the gaps with the verb *to be* in the correct form.

- a. You must **be** kidding me! How **is** this possible?
- b. If we **are** invited, we need to think of a present.
- c. We have **been** here go ages! We can't wait any longer.
- d. Someone called you when you **were** running outside.
- e. I **am** so frustrated! Why **is** it so difficult to find a paid internship now?