

Grade 8 - English FAL

Educator - C Coetzee

Week 4: 1 July 2020

Dear grade 8

During the various assignments you completed for term 1, especially with the language used in your essays and language test, I noticed that a LOT of you still struggle with when exactly you should use “am/is/are” in your sentences. I have thus tried to assemble this worksheet with explanations and a few examples followed by a few activities where you should apply what you have learnt in the explanation part.

PLEASE FOCUS AND DO NOT RUSH THIS WORKSHEET IN ORDER TO “JUST GET IT DONE”. YOU ARE LOSING UNNECESSARY MARKS THAT SHOULD BE VERY EASY TO GET.

Good Luck!

When should you use “am, is or are” in a sentence?

When you have to decide whether you have to use “am, is or are” all you have to follow the easy rules/instructions below and you will easily know which to use.

1. When do I use “am”?

The word “am” will be used when it follows the word “I”.

Examples:

- *I **am** hungry.*
- *I **am** not going to practice today.*
- *I **am** buying the cake for the party.*



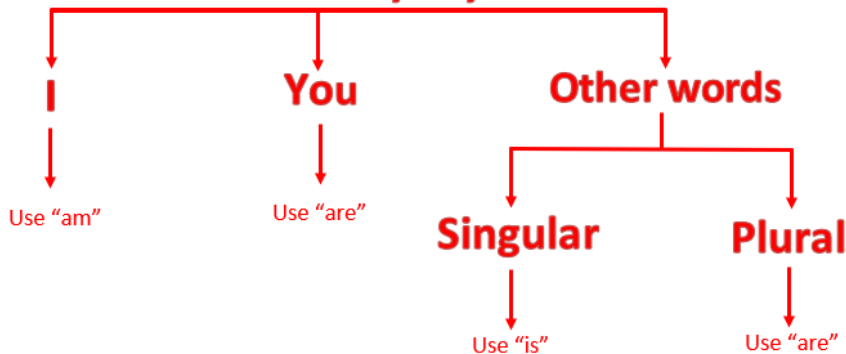
2. When do I use “is” and “are”?

*When deciding whether to use is or are, look at whether the noun/subject is plural or singular. If the noun/subject is **singular** (he, she, it, John, grandma, my teammates, my class, etc.), use **is**. If it is **plural** or there is more than one noun/subject (we, they, us, Sam and I, my parents, etc.) use **are**.*

Important: If the noun/subject is “you”, ALWAYS USE ARE

Examples with steps follow on next page:

USE OF AM, IS, ARE



Example 1:

The cat _____ eating all of his food.

Step 1: Identify / find the NOUN/SUBJECT in the sentence.

The cat _____ eating all of his food.

NOUN/SUBJECT

Step 2: Is the noun singular ? (Singular - meaning that there is only one)

or is it Plural? (Plural - meaning that there is more than one)

The cat _____ eating all of his food.

-There is only ONE cat- thus **SINGULAR**

Step 3: Apply the rule to the specific sentence to decide whether to use "is" or "are"

- When deciding whether to use is or are, look at whether the noun is plural or singular. If the noun is **singular**, use **is**. If it is **plural** or there is more than one noun, use **are**.

ANSWER = The cat **is** eating all of his food

EXAMPLE 2:

We _____ playing a match on Saturday.

Step 1: Identify / find the NOUN/SUBJECT in the sentence.

We _____ playing a match on Saturday.

NOUN/SUBJECT

Step 2: Is the noun/subject singular or Plural?

We _____ playing a match on Saturday.

-There is MORE THAN ONE - thus **PLURAL**

Step 3: Apply the rule to the specific sentence to decide whether to use “is” or “are”

- When deciding whether to use *is* or *are*, look at whether the noun is plural or singular. If the noun is **singular**, use **is**. If it **is plural** or there is more than one noun, use **are**.

ANSWER = We **are** playing a match on Saturday.

Example 3:

I _____ going to the shop.

Step 1: Identify / find the NOUN/SUBJECT in the sentence.

I _____ going to the shop.

NOUN/SUBJECT

The fact that the noun/subject is the word *I* means that you should immediately know that “*am*” must follow: thus all other steps can be ignored and you can now complete the answer.

ANSWER = I **am** going to the shop.

IMPORTANT: Do not fall into the trap of the following example !

Susan and I **ARE** going to the shop.

(Even though the “*are*” is after the “*I*” you **DO NOT USE** “*am*” as the noun/subject is “Susan and I” (thus plural) you only use “*am*” when the “*I*” is the only subject in the sentence.

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HOMEWORK:

3 July 2020

Fill in am/is or are in the following worksheet:

1. You _____ my best friend!
2. Sam and I _____ going on holiday this December.
3. We _____ staying home for dinner.
4. The team and I _____ going on tour.
5. I _____ happy to see you!
6. _____ we practicing at 4pm every Tuesday.
7. _____ I late for class?
8. Your mother told me that you said you _____ not feeling well.
9. Red _____ my favorite color
10. Tim, Tom and Sue _____ at school.
11. How much _____ the red shirt?
12. Mr. Brown _____ our teacher.
13. She _____ a very clever girl.
14. The elephant in the picture _____ pink.
15. Where _____ the girls? They _____ in the park.
16. Bob and I _____ in die garden.
17. I _____ cold.
18. _____ you coming to dinner tonight?
19. School _____ great fun.
20. The mouse _____ under the bed.