

## Subject + the to be Verb

The verb ~to be~ has five forms: *am, is, are, was, and were*. The form of the verb used is determined by the subject of the sentence. When using a singular subject, one of the singular forms of the ~to be~ verb should be used.

Singular means one.	
<b>Am and is are present tense verbs used with singular subjects (nouns).</b>	
I am a student.	(First person singular, present tense)
He is a student.	(Third person singular, present tense)
She is a student.	(Third person singular, present tense)
<b>Are used in the present tense as both a singular and plural verb</b>	
You are a student.	(Second person singular, present tense)
We are students.	(Second person plural, present tense)
<b>Was is a past tense verb used in the singular form</b>	
I was a student.	(First person singular, past tense)
He was a student.	(Third person singular, past tense)
She is a student.	(Third person singular, present tense)
<b>Were is a past tense verb that is used in both the singular and plural forms.</b>	
You were a student.	(Second person singular, past tense)
You were both students.	(Second person plural, past tense)
We were students.	(First person plural, past tense)
They were students.	(Third person plural, past tense)

When joining two singular nouns with the conjunction *and*, use the plural form of the ~to be~ verb.

Bob and I are students.

Tennessee and Kentucky are states.

Second person *you* singular and plural are the same.