

Date _____

Name _____

Verb inflections

Standard English forms for verb inflections instead of local spoken forms.

Sometimes the way people speak is different from the way that formal English is written down. For example, some people might say, 'We was playing with the cars' when the correct formal form is 'We were playing with the cars'. Another example is with *did* and *done*. You might say, 'I done my homework' but the correct formal form is 'I did my homework'.

Decide on the correct formal wording for these sentences and cross out the incorrect wording:

We was/were at Gladwell Beach five days ago.

We was/were working together as a team.

We did/done our best.

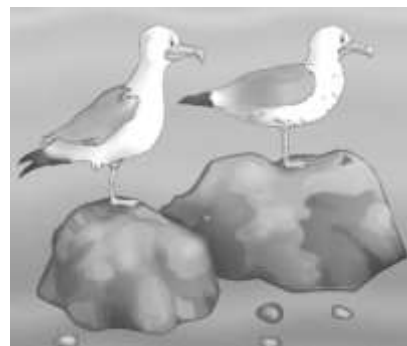
Bert was/were trying to find the good sandwiches in the picnic.

I were/was running away from home.

Mum were/was shouting at me all the time when I did/done nothing wrong.

The people who knocked on the door was/were selling cleaning powders.

I told them I had did/done my cleaning for the day.



Challenge: Now try rewriting this pirate conversation in formal English and turn the pirates into royals.

"Eh? Who are you?" demanded Pirate Smith.

"M'name's Hope and I'm a stowaway," she said defiantly. "I joined your boat on Gladwell Beach."

"But we was at Gladwell Beach five days ago," replied Bo. "Where's you been done hiding?"

"I were inside your rope box," she grinned. "S'cold but quite comfortable in there."

"But why are ye here?" asked Bo.

Year 4 Answers

In some questions, alternative answers may be acceptable. The likeliest answers are given below. If questions have more than one answer, teachers should use their own judgement when marking.

4b

We **were** at Gladwell Beach five days ago.

We **were** working together as a team.

We **did** our best.

Bert **was** trying to find the good sandwiches in the picnic.

I **was** running away from home.

My mum **was** shouting at me all the time when I **did** nothing wrong.

The people who knocked on the door **were** selling cleaning powders.

I told them I had done my cleaning for the day.

“Who are you?” demanded Pirate Smith.

“My name is Hope and I’m a stowaway,” she said defiantly. “I joined your boat on Gladwell Beach.”

“But we were at Gladwell Beach five days ago,” replied Bo. “Where have you been hiding?”

“I was inside your rope box,” she grinned. “It’s cold but quite comfortable in there.”

“But why are you here?” asked Bo.

“I ran away from home,” said Hope. “They wanted me to do knitting and stitching lessons but a life of adventure on the high seas is the life for me! My mum shouted at me all the time when I did nothing wrong.”

“So that explains why some of our food’s gone missing!” snapped Ears.

