

# New Headway

## Student's Book

### NOTES (1)

#### Forms of Verb to be (V. be)

Verb to Be (V.be) is regarded as an Auxiliary (helping verb) in English language. There are (8) forms of V.be: (is, are, am, was, were, been, being, be).

#### Short forms (Abbreviations) of Verb to be

V. be		
Present simple		
Full form	Short Form	Examples
am	'm	I'm a student.
is	's	She's looking for her books.
are	're	They're waiting for us.
Past simple		
Full form	Short Form	Examples
was	-----	I was at college.
were	-----	You were driving the car.
Past participle		
been	-----	It has been raining all afternoon long.
Present continuous		
being	-----	The door is being fixed by the man.
be	-----	I will be home around 7 o'clock
<b>NOTE: The forms (was /were /been / being and be) do NOT have short forms.</b>		

## The use of V.be

No.	V.be	Number (singular/ plural)	Tense/Form
1	is	singular	Present
2	are	plural	
3	am	I	
4	was	Singular + I	past
5	were	plural	
6	been	---	Past Participle
7	being	---	Present Continuous
8	be	---	Base Form

## V.be with Pronouns

Pronoun	Present tense	Past tense
I	am	was
We	are	were
You		
They		
He	is	was
She		
It		

### NOTE:

To know how to choose the correct form of V.be, we need to check the following two points:

1. **Subject:** check whether the subject is singular or plural.
2. **Tense:** check whether there are any adverbs of time that indicates a specific tense.

For example:

- **He** is going **now**.  
(singular subject + present tense)
- **They** are leaving the house.  
(plural subject + present tense)

- **I** am a student.  
(subject (I) + present tense)
- **My brother** is a doctor.  
(singular subject + present tense)
- **Ahmed** was reading a book **yesterday**.  
(singular subject + past tense)
- **They** were nice people.  
(plural subject + past tense)
- **These books** are on the table **at this moment**.  
(plural subject + present tense)
- **Mary** was there **a month ago**.  
(singular subject + past tense)
- **I** was studying **last night**.  
(subject (I) + past tense)
- **She** is visiting **today**.  
(singular subject + present tense)

### Exercise:

**Q/ Fill in the blanks with the suitable form of V.be:**

1. My brother \_\_\_\_\_ here a month ago.
2. These books \_\_\_\_\_ good.
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ going now.
4. The green book \_\_\_\_\_ on the table now.
5. The doctor \_\_\_\_\_ going.
6. I \_\_\_\_\_ studying yesterday.

## Answers:

1. was

(because we have singular subject + past tense indicated by (a month ago))

2. are or were

(we can use (are) or (were) because we have plural subject + tense is not determined (there are no adverbs of time))

3. am

(because we have subject (I) + present tense indicated by (now))

4. is

(because we have singular subject + present tense indicated by (now))

5. is or was

(we can use (is) or (was) because we have singular subject + tense is not determined (there are no adverbs of time))

6. was

(because we have singular subject + past tense indicated by (yesterday))