

3. We have seen that the singular of verbs of present time generally ends in *s*, and that it differs from the plural only in having the *s*. Now, just as there are irregular plurals of *nouns*, so there are a few irregular plurals of *verbs*. Thus—

The plural of *is* is.....*are*.
 “ “ “ *was* is.....*were*.
 “ “ “ *has* is.....*have*.

4. As far as regards *number* in verbs, these are almost the only very irregular forms. Be very careful in every case to use the correct form of these words—that is, the form that will make the verb agree with its subject in number.

EXAMPLE.—The sentence “The children *has* gone to school” is incorrect, because the verb “*has*” does not agree in number with its subject, “children,” since “children” is plural, while “*has*” is singular.

Exercise 3.

A.

Write sentences introducing *man*, *child*, *penny*, *ox*, *sheep*, and *woman* in the *plural*; and *mice*, *feet*, *teeth*, *sheep*, *geese*, and *pence* in the *singular*.

B.

Write these sentences, changing the number of the *nouns* and *verbs*.

MODEL.—Dutiful children obey their parents.
Changed—A dutiful child obeys its parents.

MODEL.—My boy's tooth is decayed by eating sweetmeats. *Changed*—My boy's teeth are decayed by eating sweetmeats.

1. Men are mortal.
2. Sheep have valuable wool on their backs.
3. The oxen tread out the corn.