

## Verb Number Inflection Cards Activity

This activity was designed to be used in therapy with students who habitually misuse verb inflection for number, such as in “I thought they *was* here,” and “She *don’t* want to go.” (Assuming of course that such errors result from a language impairment and not a dialectal difference.)

Materials consist of:

5 word pairs -- was/were, does/do, doesn’t/don’t, has/have, and is/are  
30 stimulus cards – 16 singular and 14 plural nouns (Watch out for “glasses” and “pants” – two nouns that seem singular but behave like plural nouns.)

Preparation: Print, cut apart, and laminate all cards.

Suggested Use:

Briefly teach the rule for singular/plural verb inflection:

For singular nouns use:

Was  
Does  
Doesn’t  
Has  
Is

For Plural nouns use:

Were  
Do  
Don’t  
Have  
Are

Give a student one pair of verb cards. As you show each picture card, the student must determine whether the singular or plural form of the verb fits with the noun. You can provide extra support by using both nouns into a sentence context for the student. (“Should we say ‘The fish *was* swimming,’ or ‘The fish *were* swimming?’”).

Optional: I added a self-checking feature to my cards by drawing tiny symbols on the back of all cards representing single noun/verb (one stick figure) versus plural noun/verb (two stick figures). After the child sorts the cards into piles on their own, they can turn them over to see if they missed any. I also found it easy to send a set of these cards home with my students for their parents to work on with them.