

## Be the Teacher

Be the Teacher is a quick and easy activity to support the use of accurate Standard English in schools, as described in Chapter 3 of the Talk:Write publication.

### Step 1

In conjunction with the teaching of correct use of grammar, pronunciation and sentence structure, the teacher makes deliberate mistakes in their spoken input to the class. The children will have been alerted to the fact that this is going to happen at times, and what their response should be. Children should be encouraged to have fun through listening to the teacher closely and shouting out the correct form enthusiastically whenever they hear the teacher make a mistake. E.g.

Teacher: '...and that were the reason that...'

Children: '...and that WAS...'

### Step 2

As children's confidence and speed of response develop, this behaviour is extended to reacting whenever they hear anyone in their class make an error.

It is crucial that children are taught to do this with kindness and fun and not in a way that may make other children feel embarrassed or reluctant to contribute again.

If the class fail to pick up on an error, the teacher MAY (subject to the confidence of the child involved) say something like:

'Oops, Lina – your friends should be shouting "We were..." at you now, rather than "We was..."'.

### Step 3

When a class is confidently playing the game throughout lessons and without prompting, it may be extended to any adults on the school staff who enter the classroom. As this game should be played in all classrooms, all adults working in the school will understand the importance of it and ideally join in the spirit, sometimes deliberately making mistakes when they enter a classroom.

### Step 4

When all the school are confidently playing, the game may be introduced into assembly (subject to the agreement of all staff and leadership). Errors will now be most commonly made by the adult leading assembly and should be done in a light-hearted and enjoyable way.

## Noun Verb Mismatches

A series of quick-fire oral challenges. Select a few to do at a time – in random order – repeating often, either in spare moments between or within lessons or with the whole school in assembly.

The teacher shouts the wrong version, adding what is necessary to make a sensible sentence, and the children shout back the correction.

E.g.

Teacher: 'It's very hungry.'

Children: 'I'm very hungry!'

They may be expanded into whiteboard games by the teacher putting the finished sentences on the whiteboard and the children reading or writing them out in the corrected form.

E.g.

Teacher: 'Me and her played tig.'

Children: 'She and I played tig.'

**Note: If you choose to print this resource, there is no need to print this instructions page.**

I is... → I am...

Us 'as → We have...

He were... → He was...

They was... → They were...

We's going... → We are going...

Them's ours... → Those are ours...

It be our... → It is our...

You's wrong... → You are wrong...

Him's wrong... → He is wrong

Them seed it... → They saw it...

Us is going... → We are going...

She done it... → She did it...

We was at... → We were at...

You all is wrong... → You all are wrong...

I done it... → I did it...

He writ it... → He wrote it...

We seed them... → We saw them...

Him and me were... → He and I were...

I has... → I have...

Them does... → They do...

Her and him went... → They went...

Her and him went... → She and he went...

Us'll go... → We'll go...

Them's out... → They are out...

I were away... → I was away...

It were him... → It was him...

Me and her did... → She and I did...

We has one... → We have one...

He done it... → He did it...

They is wrong... → They are wrong...

I's tired... → I am tired...

You done it... → You did it...

Them were out... → They were out...

Her did... → She did...

It be his... → It is his...

Them has... → They have...

They's lost... → They've lost...

They's lost... → They're lost...

Me and you did... → You and I did...

Them's writ it... → They have written it...

I am gonna... → I am going to...

I am been... → I am being...