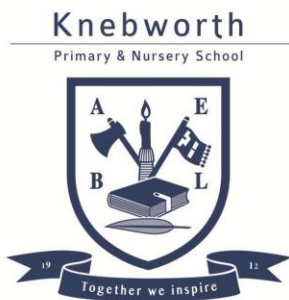


# LEARNING TOOLKIT – Year 4 Tenses



## Information about tenses

In year 4, children are expected to use the Standard English forms for **verb inflections** instead of local spoken forms, i.e. *we were instead of we was, or I did instead of I done*.

## Glossary definition

When we add *-ed* to *walk*, or change *mouse* to *mice*, this change of **morphology** produces an inflection ('bending') of the basic word which has special grammar (e.g. **past tense** or **plural**). In contrast, adding *-er* to *walk* produces a completely different word, *walker*, which is part of the same **word family**. Inflection is sometimes thought of as merely a change of ending, but, in fact, some words change completely when inflected.

## Example

In year 1 and 2 the children learned how to use the past tense by adding a suffix to the verb e.g. '**walk**' changed to '**walked**' for the past tense. The learned other verb forms in year 2 when they learned about the past progressive form using the verb '**to be**' e.g. 'They **were walking**'

Using standard English for verb inflections just means to ensure they use the verb in the correct form for example **They were walking** not 'They **was walking**'.