



The verb - to be		
Person	Present	Past
I	am	was
You	are	were
S/he	is	was
We	are	were
They	are	were

English Mat

Paint pictures with words!

Connecting your ideas...

Emphasising:
above all especially indeed notably
in particular significantly

Comparing:
likewise similarly in the same way
as with like equally

Sequencing:
first next before after then finally
meanwhile firstly eventually

Adding:
and moreover too also as well as

Qualifying:
however unless although as long as if except

Contrasting:
whereas otherwise instead of unlike
on the other hand alternatively

Illustrating:
for example such as in the case of
for instance as revealed by

Cause and effect:
so because therefore thus consequently

No or **know**, **new** or **knew**?
No, I **knew** the old number but
I don't **know** the **new** one.

To, **too** or **two**?
My **two** dogs are **too** lazy
to chase cats.

They're, **there** or **their**?
They're putting **their** books over **there**.

Hear or **here**?
Come over **here**. Can you
hear that noise?

We're, **wear**, **where** or **were**?
Where were you? We're going
somewhere cold so **wear** your coat.

it's - it is
its - belonging to

...oops!

We're - we are
They're - they are
You're - you are

Don't use 'said'.
Try one of these instead:

- called
- yelled
- moaned
- grunted
- bellowed
- ranted
- warned
- thanked
- hesitated
- remarked
- spluttered
- giggled
- ordered
- confessed
- hissed
- tutted
- shrieked
- roared
- wailed
- barked
- scoffed
- reasoned
- laughed
- muttered
- asked
- explained
- sobbed
- questioned
- sighed
- grumbled

These words will help the reader to picture your writing much more clearly e.g.

Instead of...
"I'm going," said Abi as she went.

You could write...
"I'm going!" ranted Abi as she charged through the door, slamming it shut on her way.

Don't use 'went'.
Try one of these instead:

- walked
- stumbled
- floated
- crawled
- pranced
- scurried
- sneaked
- shuffled
- marched
- clambered
- galloped
- dashed
- clomped
- strolled
- limped
- ran
- staggered
- limped
- stamped
- sidled
- charged
- tiptoed
- sauntered
- toddled
- edged
- careered
- hurtled
- waddled
- climbed
- shot

and... then... but...

first... then... next... so... last...
soon... at last... if... while... unless...
another time... because... after...

after a while... before... as well as...
although... afterwards... once... similarly...
eventually... sometimes... often...

nevertheless... besides... even though...
before the... meanwhile... before very long...
however... in addition to... despite...
contrary to... We always... unlike... especially...
I felt as... I discovered... so as to...
having decided... despite... due to...

Punctuation Tip:
Read your work out loud. This will help you decide where to pause and where to stop.

! . ? () ... , ; " "

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Think carefully about sentence structure and word choices as this can alter a reader's 'picture', thoughts, feelings or responses.