



Standard vs. Non-Standard

Standard English follows normal spelling, punctuation and grammar rules. It's a more formal type of English. Let's give it a whirl.

1. Match up each sentence on the left with the correct label on the right.

He doesn't want no dinner.		Standard English
He couldn't do anything to help.		Non-Standard English
I haven't got no pets.		
You can't do nothing to stop me.		

2. Underline the words which show that the sentences below are in Non-Standard English, and then rewrite each sentence in Standard English.

- Ian's gonna speak to Mr Smith.
- I won't of left by then.
- She ain't happy about it.
- There's the dog what I like.

3. Draw lines to show which word completes these sentences in Standard English.

..... went to the park after school.

Polly and had an argument.

James gave a present.

Maria and are learning Greek.

The teacher was angry with Martin and

I

me



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4. Complete the sentences below using 'good' or 'well'.

- a. Leo did in his exam.
- b. The play was surprisingly
- c. She repaired it very
- d. He got a mark in the test.

5. Cross out the incorrect option so that each sentence is in Standard English.

(We are building/ We is building) a treehouse.

Every week, (he go / he goes) to the zoo.

(They has / They have) loads of money.

(The camel were / The camel was) really grumpy.

Despite the rain, (they were / they was) in a good mood.

In Standard English, the subject and the verb need to agree — they should both be singular or both be plural.

6. Complete the sentences below using 'them' or 'those'.

When we went to the beach, I had one of lovely ice lollies.

Sarah usually goes to visit on her way home from school.

George really loves purple trousers, but Thomas prefers the green ones.

7. Rewrite each sentence below in Standard English.

Karen drived really quick.

I were riding my bike to school.

Helen has wrote a letter.

Grammagators make sure they use Standard English in their schoolwork. Can you use it too?

