

# being

[present participle of be]: (1) a lexical verb: *She loves being a student again.* • *Being single has its advantages.*  
(2) auxiliary verb: *The lift is being repaired.* • *I don't like being corrected.*

→ am/is/are  
→ was/were  
→ be  
→ been

## Grammar patterns

### 1 being | + adjective/NP

*I don't like being ill.*  
*Stop being so irritable.*  
*The worst thing about being a waiter is the hours.*  
*Being single again has its advantages.*

▲ to talk about states as ongoing, as if they were processes

### 2 am/is/was, etc. | + being | + adjective/NP

*The children are being silly.*  
*Were the neighbours being noisy?*  
*Tony was being a bore, so I left and came home.*

▲ to talk about temporary ways of behaving or feeling

### 3 am/is/was, etc. | + being | + past participle

*Those old apartment blocks are being pulled down.*  
*I can't give you a lift: the car is being serviced.*

▲ to talk about things that are happening in the present, without needing to say who is the cause. (This is a form of the passive: the present continuous passive.)

### 4 like/love/hate, etc. | + being | + past participle

*The politician didn't like being interrupted.*  
*The dog loves being taken for a walk.*

▲ to talk about things you like or don't like happening to you, without needing to say who is the cause

### 5 (it) being | + adjective/NP | + main clause

*It being Sunday, I didn't need to go to work.*  
*He offered me a cigarette but, being a non-smoker, I refused.*

▲ to give the reason for something

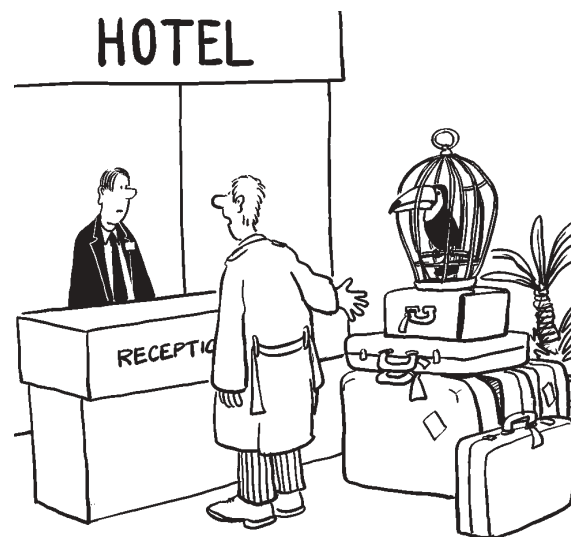
## Collocations

Adjectives that frequently go with Grammar pattern 1 are: *silly, unfair, rude, stupid, honest, good, naughty, ridiculous, careful, serious, selfish, and unreasonable.*

*I think you're being a bit unfair on me. I never said ...*  
*I hope you're not being serious: do you really think ...?*

## Set phrases

- **for the time being** = temporarily  
*You can leave your luggage in reception for the time being.*
- **all things being equal** = if there are no other factors that will affect the situation  
*All things being equal, women are better language learners than men.*



"JUST FOR THE TIME BEING ..."

## Exercises

### 1 Find examples of Grammar patterns 1–5 in these concordance lines:

- a She didn't like **being** called Linda at all.
- b Both players are **being** paid by Preston until July.
- c They trust no one, and hate **being** questioned about their lives.
- d **Being** the youngest in a family of six meant I never got to choose my own clothes.
- e I'm afraid I'm **being** a bit of a nuisance.
- f He has now been located and is **being** cared for by relatives.
- g After dinner, it **being** light at the time, we took our friend into the hotel garden.
- h You are just not **being** realistic.
- i New promotional materials are **being** developed.
- j John has a calming influence on the team, **being** older than most of the lads.
- k I hope you're **being** a good girl today.
- l The evidence is there. The damage is **being** done.
- m It felt strange **being** the only man amongst so many women.

### 2 Use verbs from the list to answer these questions, using the present continuous passive.

repair question iron dryclean restore  
feed paint print interview defrost

- a Where's my suit? It's **being drycleaned**.
- b Where's my white shirt?
- c Why is our doctor on TV?
- d Why is Room 101 not in use?
- e What's happening to the suspects?
- f Where's the TV?
- g Where's that report I wrote?
- h Why is the fridge empty?
- i Where is the Rembrandt self-portrait?
- j Where are the pandas?

### 3 Match the two parts of these sentences:

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| a Cats like         | 1 being washed.          |
| b Dogs like         | 2 being over-watered.    |
| c Plants don't like | 3 being stroked.         |
| d Cats don't like   | 4 being taken for walks. |

### Do the same for these sentences:

- |                       |                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| e Babies love         | 5 being asked lots of questions. |
| f Young children like | 6 being ignored.                 |
| g Teenagers hate      | 7 being tickled.                 |
| h Nobody likes        | 8 being read to.                 |

### 4 *Be, being, or been?* Complete these song titles by choosing the best word:

- a 'You must have ..... a beautiful baby.' (Bobby Darin)
- b 'You'll ..... a woman soon.' (Neil Diamond)
- c 'Baby I've ..... missing you.' (The Independents)
- d 'Let it ..... .' (The Beatles)
- e 'It should have ..... me.' (Gladys Knight and the Pips)
- f '..... anything (but ..... mine).' (Connie Francis)
- g 'Tired of ..... alone.' (Al Green)
- h 'Reach out – I'll ..... there.' (The Four Tops)
- i 'I've ..... loving you too long to stop now.' (Otis Redding)
- j 'How sweet it is to ..... loved by you.' (James Taylor)
- k 'I feel like ..... like a sex machine.' (James Brown)
- l 'I've ..... lonely too long.' (The Rascals)
- m 'When will I ..... loved?' (The Everly Brothers)