These words are often confused by ESL students. Although they are both forms of the primary auxiliary verb *be*, they are used in different grammatical structures. The word **been** is the past participle form of *be*. It is used after **have**.

- I have been to Australia.
- The postman has already been.

The word **being** is the present participle form of the verb *be*. It is not used after **have**. As a rule, being is used after a form of *be* (is, am, are, was, were).

- He is being sick. (= He is vomiting.) (NOT He has being sick.)
- Who is being a silly baby, then?
- I was being careful.

**Being as a Noun**

The word ‘being’ can also be a noun.

The word **being** can be used as a noun. As a noun being means a person or a living creature. Supernatural beings refer to spirits or gods.

Examples are: *human beings, social beings, supernatural beings, living beings* etc.

The structure **be + being** can be followed by an adjective or noun.

- He was being careful.
- She was being silly.

This structure is used to talk about actions and behaviors. It is not normally used to talk about feelings.

**Complete the following sentences using being or been.**

1. She has always ..................... a very naughty girl. (being / been)
2. You are ......................... stupid. (being / been)
3. His latest album has ....................... grabbing a lot of headlines since its launch. (being / been)
4. Have they ......................... informed? (being / been)
5. An exhibition of her paintings is ....................... held next week. (being / been)