

1 Be: Present Simple (1)

- 1** Here are some examples of **be** in the Present Simple:
- This **is** my brother. He's ten years old.*
*I'm a student. These **are** my books.*
*They **aren't** at home. They're at the theatre.*

- 2** We form the Present Simple of **be** like this:

POSITIVE	FULL FORM	SHORT FORM
Singular	<i>I am</i>	<i>I'm</i>
	<i>you are</i>	<i>you're</i>
	<i>he/she/it is</i>	<i>he's/she's/it's</i>
Plural	<i>we are</i>	<i>we're</i>
	<i>you are</i>	<i>you're</i>
	<i>they are</i>	<i>they're</i>

NEGATIVE	FULL FORM	SHORT FORM
Singular	<i>I am not</i>	<i>I'm not</i>
	<i>you are not</i>	<i>you aren't</i>
	<i>he/she/it is not</i>	<i>he's/she's/it isn't</i>
Plural	<i>we are not</i>	<i>we aren't</i>
	<i>you are not</i>	<i>you aren't</i>
	<i>they are not</i>	<i>they aren't</i>

- 3** In speech, we usually use the short forms:
- She's my sister. He's my brother.*
I'm from Italy. They're German.

- 4** We use **be**:

- ▶ to say who we are:
*I'm Steve and this **is** my friend William.*
We're from Scotland.
*I'm Jessica and these **are** my sisters. This **is** Amber and this **is** Penelope. Amber and Penelope **are** doctors.*
- ▶ to talk about the weather:
It's cold today.
It's a beautiful day.
It's usually hot here
*It **isn't** very warm today.*
- ▶ to talk about the time:
It's ten o'clock.
It's half past four.
You're late!
- ▶ to talk about places:
*Milan **is** in the north of Italy.*
*John and Mary **are** in Yorkshire.*
- ▶ to talk about people's ages:
*My sister **is** six years old.*

- A** Maria is from Brazil. She is writing about herself and her family. Put full forms of **be** in the gaps.

- ◆ I **am** a student from Brazil.
- ◆ My parents **are not** (not) rich.
- 1 My father a teacher.
- 2 My mother (not) Brazilian.
- 3 She from America.
- 4 I 20 years old.
- 5 My little brother two.
- 6 My older brothers (not) students.
- 7 They in the army.
- 8 It often very hot in Brazil.

- B** Now fill these gaps. This time, use short forms of **be**.

- ◆ I'm a doctor.
- ◆ I'm not (not) a bank manager.
- 1 She (not) a teacher.
- 2 He a student.
- 3 They at home.
- 4 They (not) in the park.
- 5 It (not) cold today.
- 6 It eight o'clock.
- 7 We from Paris.
- 8 We (not) from Bordeaux.
- 9 You (not) 21 years old.
- 10 I 24 years old.


C Choose words from the box to put in the gaps.

He's She's ~~They're~~ It's (x2) are is We isn't


- ◆ My parents live in Scotland. They're teachers.
- 1 New York _____ in England. _____ in America.
- 2 Paul _____ from Germany. _____ German.
- 3 My sister is a doctor. _____ 30 years old.
- 4 _____ six o'clock! _____ are late.
- 5 Look at the time! Chris and Mary _____ late.


D Look at these pictures. These people are saying who they are. Write sentences using the jobs from the box.

a pop star a farmer a bank manager ~~a footballer~~ a dentist a doctor
~~a police officer~~ an artist a teacher a film star a scientist a photographer


◆  names: I'm Paolo and this is Federico.
 nationality: We're from Italy.
 jobs: I'm a police officer and Federico is a footballer.

1  names: _____
 nationality: _____
 jobs: _____

2  names: _____
 nationality: _____
 jobs: _____

3  names: _____
 nationality: _____
 jobs: _____

4  names: _____
 nationality: _____
 jobs: _____

5  names: _____
 nationality: _____
 jobs: _____

2 Be: Present Simple (2)

Tenses: present

- 1** We use **be**:
- ▶ to talk about how we feel:
I'm happy. They're sad.
They're bored. She's tired.
We're hungry. I'm thirsty.
He isn't afraid. They're cold.
 - ▶ to greet people:
 William: *Hello. How are you?*
 Jasmine: *I'm fine thanks. How are you?*
 - ▶ to apologize:
I'm sorry I'm late.
 - ▶ to describe things:
It isn't expensive. It's cheap.
It's an old film. It isn't very good.
These photos are bad!

For other uses of **be**, see **Unit 1**.

- 2** We use **there + be** to talk **about** the existence of something. **There + be** can be used to talk about where things are:

Singular	<i>There's a supermarket in this street.</i> <i>There is a washing machine in the flat.</i>
Plural	<i>There are some good cafes in the centre of the town.</i>

We also use **there + be** to talk about when things happen:
There is a bus to London at six o'clock.
There are taxis, but there aren't any buses on Sunday.
There isn't another train to Manchester today.

- 3** We form questions with **be** in the Present Simple like this:

QUESTIONS		
Singular	<i>Am I</i>	} late?
	<i>Are you</i>	
	<i>Is he/she/it</i>	
Plural	<i>Are we</i>	} late?
	<i>Are you</i>	
	<i>Are they</i>	

Here are some examples of questions using all the forms of **be**:

- Am I late for the film?*
- Are you 20 years old?*
- Is he at home now?*
- Is she French or Italian?*
- Is it time to go home?*
- Are we ready to leave?*
- Are you both at university?*
- Are they in London today?*

A Make sentences about the pictures using the words from the box. Use *He/She/They* and the Present Simple of *be*.

tired sad **thirsty** happy hungry bored afraid cold



◆ *She's thirsty*



1 He



2 They



3



4



5



6



7

B Use *there* + the correct form of *be* to say what we can and cannot find in the town of Smallwood.

- ◆ (a cinema: ✓) *There's* a cinema.
- ◆ (a river: ✗) *There isn't* a river.
- ◆ (restaurants: 10) *There are* ten restaurants.
- 1 (a castle: ✓) a castle.
- 2 (baker's shops: 2) two baker's shops.
- 3 (a zoo: ✓) a zoo.
- 4 (banks: 6) six banks.
- 5 (a luxury hotel: ✓) a luxury hotel.
- 6 (a theatre: ✗) a theatre.
- 7 (newsagents: 6) six newsagents.
- 8 (many tourists: ✗) many tourists.

C Write questions by putting the words in brackets () in the correct order.

- ◆ (thirsty – you – are) *Are you thirsty?*
- 1 (a teacher – you – are)
- 2 (they – bored – are)
- 3 (is – afraid – he)
- 4 (she – tired – is)
- 5 (are – you – how)
- 6 (cold today – it – is)
- 7 (she – Spanish – is)
- 8 (they – from London – are)

D Complete the dialogues with the correct forms of *be*.

- Steve: This ¹ *is* Jasmine, my sister.
 Tom: Hello, Jasmine. ² you a student?
 Jasmine: No, I ³ a dentist. I work in Brighton.
 Mike: How are you, Ellie?
 Ellie: I ⁴ fine, thanks.
 Mike: ⁵ you hungry?
 Ellie: Yes. ⁶ there a good restaurant near here?
 Mike: Yes. There ⁷ a good, and cheap, restaurant in Wellington Street.

E Write questions using the words in brackets () and a form of *be*.

- | QUESTIONS | ANSWERS |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ◆ (you/Spanish)? <i>Are you Spanish</i> | ? ~ No, I'm French. |
| 1 (you/hungry)? | ? ~ No, I'm thirsty. |
| 2 (she/your sister)? | ? ~ No, she's my mother. |
| 3 (I/late)? | ? ~ No, you're on time. |
| 4 (they/from America)? | ? ~ No, they're from Canada. |
| 5 (he/a tennis player)? | ? ~ No, he's a footballer. |
| 6 (you/happy)? | ? ~ No, I'm sad. |
| 7 (she/at home)? | ? ~ No, she's at work. |
| 8 (he/20)? | ? ~ No, he's 18 years old. |