

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 am you are he/she/it is	I'm you're he's/she's/it's
Plural	we are you are they are	we're you're they're

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

3 In speech, we usually use the short forms:

*She's my sister. He's my brother.
I'm from Italy. They're German.*

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:
 Bjorn Liv
- 2   
 names:
 nationality:
 jobs:
 Maria Pedro
- 3   
 names:
 nationality:
 jobs:
 Jim Mary
- 4   
 names:
 nationality:
 jobs:
 Tomoko Akira
- 5   
 names:
 nationality:
 jobs:
 Rajiv Ikram

2 Be: Present Simple (2)

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

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	Am I Are you Is he/she/it	} late?
Plural	Are we Are you Are they	} late?

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

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

Steve: This ¹ *is* Jasmine, my sister.

Tom: Hello, Jasmine. ¹ you a student?

Jasmine: No, I ² a dentist. I work in Brighton.

Mike: How are you, Ellie?

Ellie: I ³ fine, thanks.

Mike: ⁴ you hungry?

Ellie: Yes. ⁵ there a good restaurant near here?

Mike: Yes. There ⁶ 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)?	Are you Spanish? ? ~ 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.