

1.1 Simple Present of Be: Affirmative Statements

Singular			Plural		
Subject	Be		Subject	Be	
I	am	from Italy.	We Dave and I	are	from Italy.
You	are		You You and Anna		
He Mario The boy	is		They Mario and the girl The cars		
She Marie The girl					
It The car					

1. A sentence needs a subject and a verb.

Marta is from Mexico.

Subject Verb

✓ Jon **is** from Canada.

✗ Jon from Canada.

2. The verb *be* has three forms in the present: *am*, *is*, *are*.

I **am** from Peru.

She **is** from Spain.

They **are** from Japan.

3. Subject pronouns can take the place of a noun as subject. Do not use a subject pronoun after a subject noun.

Rodrigo is Brazilian. **He** is from Recife.

✓ He is from Brazil.

✗ Rodrigo he is from Brazil.

4. *You* is for one person or more than one person.

Ed, **you** are late. (one person)

Ed and Al, **you** are late. (more than one person)

5. Use *and* to join two nouns in the subject position.

Lucas **and** Ana are from Brazil.

The boy **and** girl are from Brazil.

1.2 Contractions with Be

Full Form

I	am	from Canada.
You	are	
He	is	
Pierre		
She		
Megan		
It		
We	are	
You		
They		

Contraction

I'm	from Canada.
You're	
He's	
Pierre 's	
She's	
Megan's	
It's	
We're	
You're	
They're	

1. A contraction is a short form.
Contractions are used in conversation and informal writing.

A: Hello. My name's Larry.
B: Nice to meet you. I'm Maria.

2. Use contractions with pronouns, nouns, and proper nouns. Proper nouns are names of specific people, places, and things.

He's from Mexico.
My **name's** Lisa.
Yumiko's from Japan.
Montreal's a city in Canada.
The **Burj Khalifa's** a building in Dubai.

3. The contraction *you're* is for one person or more than one person.

Ed, **you're** late. (one person)
Ed and Al, **you're** late. (more than one person)

1.3 Be + Singular Noun

Subject	Be	Singular Noun
I	am	a student.
South Africa	is	a country.
A lion	is	an animal.
You	are	an explorer.

1. *Singular* means *one*. Use *a* or *an* before a singular noun.

1 student = **a student**
1 apple = **an apple**

2. *A* and *an* have the same meaning.

Use *a* before nouns beginning with a consonant sound.

(Consonants = *b, c, d, f, g, h*, etc.)

Use *an* before nouns beginning with a vowel sound.

(Vowels = *a, e, i, o, u*)

She is **a photographer**.
It is **a book**.

He is **an author**.
She is **an explorer**.

3. Do not use *a* or *an* before proper nouns.

✓ Lisa is **a teacher**.

✗ A Lisa is **a teacher**.

✓ Mexico is **a country**.

✗ A Mexico is **a country**.

1.4 Be + Plural Noun

Subject	Be	Plural Noun
Beverly and Dereck	are	explorers.
You and Sam	are	engineers.
English and French	are	languages.
Botswana and South Africa	are	countries.

1. Plural means *more than one*.

To make most nouns plural, add -s.

book-books

pen-pens

explorer-explorers

2. To make nouns that end in *-ch, -sh, -ss, -x,* and *-z* plural, add *-es*.

class-classes, box-boxes

To make nouns that end in *consonant + -y* plural, change the *-y* to *-i* and add *-es*.

city-cities, story-stories

3. Some plural nouns are irregular. They do not end in -s.

one man-two **men**

one child-two **children**

one woman-two **women**

one person-two **people**

4. Use *are* after nouns joined by *and*.

Ken and Amy **are** students.

Sandra and I **are** doctors.

1.5 Simple Present of Be: Negative Statements

Full Forms			Contractions		
I am	not	from India.	I'm	not	from China.
You are			You're		
He is			He's		
She is			She's		
It is			It's		
We are			We're		
You are			You're		
They are			They're		

1. To make a negative statement, put *not* after *be* in the present.

I **am not** a photographer.

2. There are two negative contractions for *is* and *are* in the present.

's not = isn't

He **'s not** from Argentina.

He **isn't** from Argentina.

're not = aren't

They **'re not** sisters.

They **aren't** sisters.

3. There is only one negative contraction for *am* in the present.

I **'m not** from Italy.

1.6 Descriptive Adjectives

Subject	Be	Adjective
I	am	tall.
He	is	strong.
We	are	happy.
They	are	late.

	Adjective	Noun
He is a	tall	man.
She is an	interesting	person.

1. Adjectives describe nouns or pronouns.

He is **patient**.

They are **friendly**.

2. Adjectives often come after the verb *be*.
They can also come before nouns.

We are **busy**.

We are **busy** people.

3. The form of an adjective does not change. An adjective is the same for singular and plural nouns and pronouns.

✓ The room is **big**.

✓ The rooms are **big**.

✗ The rooms are bigs.

4. Use *a* or *an* before adjectives + singular nouns.

He's **a** good person and **an** excellent friend.

Use *a* before an adjective beginning with a consonant sound.

She's **a** good doctor.

Use *an* with an adjective beginning with a vowel sound.

He's **an** excellent teacher.

1.7 Possessive Adjectives

Subject Pronouns	Possessive Adjectives	Example Sentences
I	my	I am from India. My name is Manik.
you	your	You are a student. Your class is in Room 209.
he	his	He is from Norway. His name's Lars.
she	her	She is married. Her husband is a scientist.
it	its	It is a friendly dog. Its name is Nanook.
we	our	We are French. Our home is in Paris.
you	your	You are great photographers. Your photos are beautiful.
they	their	They are actors. Their movie is funny.

1. Possessive adjectives show possession or relationships.

2. Possessive adjectives come before nouns.

3. Use *your* for one person or more than one person.

Our apartment is small.

My brother is funny and smart.

His eyes are brown.

Nora is a scientist. **Her** job is very interesting.

Max, **your** friend is here.

Max and Jesse, **your** friend is here.

1.8 Possessive Nouns

Singular	Plural
The student's last name is Ming.	The students' last names are Ming and Diaz.
My neighbor's house is small.	My neighbors' houses are small.

1. To make a singular noun possessive, add an apostrophe (') + -s to the end of the noun.

The **baby's** room is small.
Lisa's car is green.

2. To make most plural nouns possessive, add an apostrophe (') after the -s.

The **babies'** room is small.
My **brothers'** names are Ted and Jeremy.

3. To make an irregular plural noun possessive, add an apostrophe (') + -s to the end of the noun.

The **children's** room is small.