The simple present of the verb to be

The simple present of the verb *to be*

This page will present the simple present of the verb to be:

* its form
* and its use

The verb *to be*

The verb ***to be*** is the most important verb in the English language. It is difficult to use because it is an irregular verb in almost all of its forms.  In the simple present tense, to be is conjugated as follows:

Affirmative forms of the verb *to be*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject Pronouns** | **Full Form** | **Contracted Form** |
| I | am | 'm |
| you | are | 're |
| he/she/it | is | 's |
| we | are | 're |
| you | are | 're |
| they | are | 're |

Interrogative forms of the verb to be:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Am | I? |
| Are | you? |
| Is | he/she/it? |
| Are | we? |
| Are | you? |
| Are | they? |

Negative Forms of the verb to be:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject Pronouns** | **Full Form** | **Contracted Form** |
| I | am not | 'm not |
| you | are not | aren't |
| he/she/it | is not | isn't |
| we | are not | aren't |
| you | are not | aren't |
| they | are not | aren't |

**Examples**:

* **Is** Brad Pitt French?
* No, he **isn't**. He**'s** American.
* What about Angelina Joli? **Is** she American, too?
* Yes, she **is**. She **is** American.
* **Are** brad Pitt and Angelina Joli French?
* No, they **aren't**. They **are** American.

Use of the simple present of to be

The principal use of the simple present is to refer to an action or event that takes place habitually, but with the verb "to be" the simple present tense also refers to a present or general state, whether temporary, permanent, or habitual.

* I **am** happy.
* She **is** helpful.

The verb to be in the simple present can also be used to refer to something true at the present moment.

* She **is** 20 years old.
* He **is** a student.

**Remember**:

* **I, you, he, she, it, you, they** are [subject pronouns](https://www.myenglishpages.com/english/grammar-lesson-personal-pronouns.php) (also called **personal pronouns,**a term used to include both subject and object pronouns.)
* **am, are, is** are forms of the verb **to be** in the simple present.
* **'m, 're, 's** are short (contracted) forms of **am, are, is**
* **'m not, aren't, isn't** are short (contracted forms) of **am not, are not, is not.**

**Fill in the blanks with am, is, are**. (Capitalize where needed)

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1. Tom      a carpenter.

2. Terry and Linda      from Armenia.

3. Jack      a famous movie star.

4.      Derek and Peter police officers?

5. BMW      an expensive car brand.

6. Alan's friends      doctors.

7. We     ds at home.

8. I      a diligent student.

9. They      my friend's cousins.

10. Mr Jackson      a pianist.

11. Daniel and Ryan      mechanical engineers.

12.      they soldiers?

13. His shoes      new.

14.      you the boss?

15.      Judy beautiful?

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