



SVC (Subject Pronouns + Be)

Grammar > Beginner 2



Exercise 1 – Learning

SVC is a very basic sentence pattern in English:

Subject + Verb + Complement (SVC)

Ex: I am a cook.

‘I’ is the subject. ‘Am’ is the verb. ‘A cook’ is a subject complement. This lesson will focus on the subject and verb.

Subject

The **subject** is the first part of the SVC sentence "**I** am a cook". The subject is the focus of the sentence. The most basic kind of subject is a noun, i.e. a person (Lisa), place (the park), or thing (a movie). Instead of nouns, we can also use **personal subject pronouns**.



These are the **1st person personal subject pronouns**:

- **I**
- **We** (plural of 'I', can replace 'Lisa and I')

This is the **2nd person personal subject pronoun**:

- **You** (singular *and* plural)

These are the **3rd person personal subject pronouns**:

- **He** (male person, can replace 'Peter')
- **She** (female person, can replace 'Lisa')
- **It** (objects or animals)
- **They** (plural of 'he/she/it', can replace 'Peter and Lisa')



Linking Verb 'be'

The **linking verb** is the second part of the sentence "I **am** a cook". It connects the subject 'I' to information about the subject, 'a cook'. The most basic linking verb is 'be'.

In English, the subject is the most important part of the sentence. Verbs, such as 'be', change form to 'agree with' the subject. The forms of 'be' are: **am**, **are**, and **is**.

- **I am** a cook.
- **You are** a cook.
- **We are** cooks.
- **They are** cooks.
- **He / she is** a cook.
- **It is** a movie.



Abbreviations

When speaking, we often abbreviate (i.e. shorten) a word or phrase. Many phrases with linking verbs are abbreviated using an apostrophe ('):

- I am a cook → **I'm** a cook.
- We are cooks → **We're** cooks.
- You are a cook → **You're** a cook.
- They are cooks → **They're** cooks.
- He is a cook → **He's** a cook.
- She is a cook → **She's** a cook.
- It is a movie → **It's** a movie.



Exercise 2 – Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the blanks with is, are, or am.

1. You _____ a painter.
2. I _____ a soldier.
3. She _____ a cashier.
4. We _____ barbers.
5. Lisa _____ a singer.
6. He _____ a student.
7. They _____ waiters.
8. Peter and I _____ doctors.



Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Use what you learned in class to create sentences with your tutor.

Example: My name, David. → My name is David.

Content:

1. I, a nurse.
2. My mom's name, Megan.
3. She, a singer.
4. You, a student.
5. It, a pen.
6. Peter and Lisa, doctors.