

GRAMMAR

The verb *to be*

LEVEL

Beginner

NUMBER

EN_A1_1023G

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can identify the forms of the verb 'to be' in the present tense.
- I can produce very simple sentences with the verb 'to be' in the present tense.



Is it a bird? **Is** it a plane?
It **is**...



The verb *to be*

- Use ***to be*** to talk about **name, age, adjectives, jobs, nationality** and **more**.
- This is the verb ***to be*** in the **present tense**.

I **am**

You **are**

He / she / it **is**

We **are**

You **are**

They **are**

I **am** Peter.

You **are** 18.

He / she / it **is** friendly.

We **are** Japanese.

You **are** students.

They **are** a family.



The verb *to be*



The man **is** tall.

The boy **is** short.





Match the sentences to pictures

1



2



3



4



a They are a family.

b He is friendly.

c It is a zebra.

d I am Peter.



Choose the correct form of *to be*

1 I _____ English.

a. am

b. is

2 It _____ a nice day.

a. is

b. am

3 Michael and I _____ friends.

a. am

b. are

4 They _____ animals.

a. are

b. is



Make a sentence

I am...

You are...

He is...

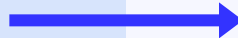
She is...



Short form of *to be*

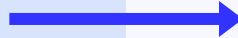
- Use the **short form** of ***to be*** in conversations and informal writing.

I **am**



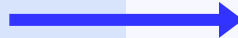
I'm

You **are**



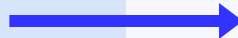
You're

He / she / it **is**



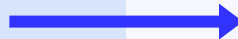
He's / she's / it's

We **are**



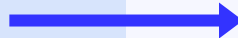
We're

You **are**



You're

They **are**



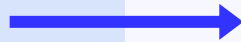
They're



Short form of *to be*

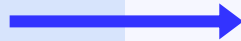
- Here are some examples of the **short form**:

I am a student.



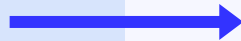
I'm a student.

You are my friend.



You're my friend.

They are brother and sister.



They're brother and sister.



Practise using contractions

In everyday conversation, we usually use **contractions** (the short form) with the verb **to be**.

1

I'm tall.

2

You're a doctor.

3

She's a student.

4

We're in the classroom.

5

They're friends.





Complete the dialogue (1/2)



Hi Deirdre, how _____ it going?

_____ doing well, thanks. And you?



I'm fine, thanks. _____ you free tonight?

Yes, _____.



be
is

I'm
you're

is
are

I'm
I am



Complete the dialogue (2/2)



Angela and I _____ going to the cinema.
Do you want to come?



Sounds great! What time _____ you meeting?



The film _____ at 8:00, so we can meet at 7:00.
See you later!

am
are

are
be

is
am



Complete the sentences

1 It _____ a house.

2 _____ is yellow.

3 It is _____ .

4 It _____ nice.

It
small
is
is



Complete the sentences

Hi! My name is Sarah. I am _____ student. I live in _____ big city and go to _____ university.

Every day I eat _____ apple and _____ sandwich for lunch.

When I finish university, I want to be _____ engineer.



a

a

an

an

a

a



Match the boxes

Form three sentences from the words below. You can do this activity **in breakout rooms**.
Check your answers in the class afterwards.



England.

She

is a doctor.

is

she

she

from

happy

is



Which sentence is different?

I'm fine,
thanks.

You're in this
class.

He's from
Madrid.

We are
friends.



Rewrite the sentences with the short form of *to be*

1 I am very happy.



2 He is my brother.



3 We are doing well today.







Think of a sentence

Use the words below. **Tell** your teacher.



I'm

You're

He's

She's

It's

You're

We're

They're

?



Guess the object

Think of an object (e.g. an apple).

Ask questions of the other students.

Try to guess their object!



Ex.

Is it blue? → Yes, it is/ No, it isn't



End of the lesson

Idiom

To be full of yourself

Meaning: to be arrogant; someone who thinks they are better than others

Example: It's hard to be around people who are full of themselves.



Additional practice



Complete the table

I	am
You	_____
He	_____
She	_____
It	_____
You	_____
We	_____
They	_____





Write the short form



1 I am



I'm

2 You are



3 She is



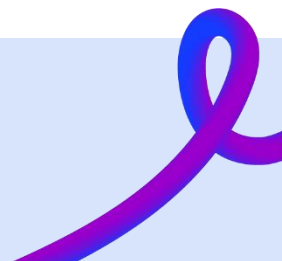
4 It is



5 We are



6 They are





Match and complete the sentences

Match the sentences to the correct picture. Complete the sentences with the correct **pronoun** and form of '**be**'. Check if you need an **article**.

1



2



a _____ white dog.

b _____ happy.

3



4



c _____ saying goodbye.

d _____ sad.

5



6



e _____ tired.

f _____ working.

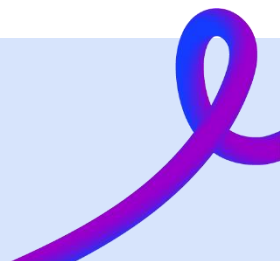


Answer with a partner

Are you happy?



Are you from England?





Answer key

Exercise p.6

1. D – 2. A – 3. B – 4. D

Exercise p.7

1. a – 2. a – 3. b – 4. a

Exercise p.12/13

Is – I'm – are – I am – are – are – is

Exercise p.14

1. is – 2. It – 3. small – 4. is

Exercise p.15

Hi! My name is Sarah. I am a student. I live in a big city and go to a university.

Every day I eat an apple and a sandwich for lunch. When I finish university, I want to be an engineer.

Exercise p.16

She is a doctor. She is from England. She is happy.



Answer

Exercise p.17

We are friends.

Exercise p.18

1. I'm very happy. – 2. He's very happy. – 3. We're doing well today.

Exercise p. 24

are – is – is – is – are – are – are

Exercise p. 25

you're – she's – it's – we're – they're

Exercise p. 26

1. d, he is – 2. f, We are/They are – 3. a, It is a – 4. e, He is – 5. c, We are/They are – 6. b, She is



Summary

Use of the verb *to be*

- We use the verb ***to be*** with **names**, **ages** and **nationalities**.
- We also use it with **adjectives** and **jobs**.

Forms of the verb *to be*

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| ● <i>I am</i> | ● <i>We are</i> |
| ● <i>You are</i> | ● <i>You are</i> |
| ● <i>He, she, it is</i> | ● <i>They are</i> |

Short forms

- We often use short forms in **conversations** and **informal writing**.
- Short forms of *to be* → *I'm, you're, he's, we're, they're*



Vocabulary

I am

You are

He/She/It is

We are

They are

