



Simple Past Forms

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 a bird an invertebrate?
°No, it isn't. It's a vertebrate.

°Are tigers vertebrates?
°Yes, they are.

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.

°Mammals are terrestrials.
°A bat is a mammal, it's not a bird.

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

°The bird is outside

