



be: affirmative and negative

Affirmative		Negative	
Full form	Short form	Full form	Short form
I am	I'm	I am not	I'm not
You are	You're	You are not	You aren't
He is	He's	He is not	He isn't
She is	She's	She is not	She isn't
It is	It's	It is not	It isn't
We are	We're	We are not	We aren't
You are	You're	You are not	You aren't
They are	They're	They are not	They aren't

The verb *be* is after the subject (*I, he, she, you ...*)

I am twelve. He is from Berlin.

To make the negative form, add *not* after the verb.

She is not good at art. We are not into shopping.

In spoken or informal written English we use the short forms.

She isn't good at art. We aren't into shopping.

Subject pronouns and possessive adjectives

Subject pronouns	Possessive adjectives
I	my
you	your
he	his
she	her
it	its
we	our
you	your
they	their

Usage

We use subject pronouns in place of names (*Jessica, Melisa, Tom ...*) or nouns (*book, photo, friend ...*). We use them when we know the person or thing we are talking about.

Jessica is from London. She's from London.

This book is good. It's good.

Remember: Subject pronouns cannot be left out of a sentence.

She's from Oxford. NOT ~~is from Oxford.~~

Possessive adjectives show that something belongs to a person. We use them when we know the person or thing we are talking about.

Dan is a good friend. His house is next to my house.

Ann and Paul are interested in photography.

Their photos are really good.

Possessive 's

For singular nouns, add 's to the noun.

Mark's room the student's pen

For plural nouns, add '.

the teachers' desks

For irregular plural nouns, add 's.

the children's teacher

Usage

The possessive 's shows that something belongs to a person.

Richard's book the girls' chairs

be: questions

Questions	Short answers	
	Affirmative	Negative
Am I ... ?	Yes, I am.	No, I'm not.
Are you ... ?	Yes, you are.	No, you aren't.
Is he ... ?	Yes, he is.	No, he isn't.
Is she ... ?	Yes, she is.	No, she isn't.
Is it ... ?	Yes, it is.	No, it isn't.
Are we ... ?	Yes, we are.	No, we aren't.
Are you ... ?	Yes, you are.	No, you aren't.
Are they ... ?	Yes, they are.	No, they aren't.

In *yes / no* questions, the verb *be* is the first word of the sentence before the subject.

Are you into cycling?

In spoken or informal written English, we use the short forms of negative short answers.

Is he twelve? No, he isn't.

Remember: There is no short form of affirmative short answers.

Are you into sport? Yes, I am. NOT ~~Yes, I'm.~~

Usage

We use the verb *be* for personal information – ages, names, jobs and nationalities, and with *be interested in*, *be into* and *be good at*.

They're teachers. They're interested in art.

He's fourteen. He's good at sport.

We aren't from Oxford.

She isn't Italian.