the verb to be (1)

FORM

affirmative

I am happy.
You are
We are
They are
He is
She is
It is

short forms

In spoken and informal English, it is natural to use short forms of the verb to be.

I am = I'm
You are = You're
We are = We're
They are = They're
He is = He's
She is = She's
It is = It's

We can also use short forms with names.

John is tall = John's tall.
London is a very big city = London's a very big city.

USE

We use the verb to be to talk about:

- ages.
  - I'm 16 and my brother is six.
- occupations.
  - She's a student and her parents are teachers.
- prices.
  - This watch is £30.
- the time.
  - It's nine o'clock.
- feelings and states.
  - I'm hungry.
- nationality.
  - They're Argentinian.
- colours.
  - His eyes are blue.
1. Complete the spaces with *is, are, or am*.
   a. Cars **are** expensive.
   b. John **is** a student.
   c. I **am** the best in the class.
   d. My sister **is** a teacher.
   e. The train **is** late again.
   f. You **are** in class 3B.
   g. That computer **is** very slow.
   h. It **is** cold today.
   i. We **are** interested in shopping.
   j. I **am** tired.
   k. Stephanie and Luke **are** from Canada.

2. Rewrite these sentences using the short form.
   a. She is funny. **She’s funny.**
   b. They are clever. **They’re clever.**
   c. We are cold. **We’re cold.**
   d. I am an astronaut. **I’m an astronaut.**
   e. He is tall. **He’s tall.**
   f. You are friendly. **You’re friendly.**
   g. They are kind. **They’re kind.**
   h. She is a good teacher. **She’s a good teacher.**
   i. They are bad dogs. **They’re bad dogs.**
   j. You are nice students. **You’re nice students.**
   k. Sally is 15 years old. **Sally’s 15 years old.**

3. Use the prompts to write a sentence. Use short forms.
   a. He / angry **He’s angry.**
   b. They / happy **They’re happy.**
   c. It / hot now **It’s hot now.**
   d. You / intelligent **You’re intelligent.**
   e. We / unhappy today **We’re unhappy today.**
   f. I / a doctor **I’m a doctor.**
   g. You / good students **You’re good students.**
   h. She / from Mexico **She’s from Mexico.**
   i. My eyes / green **My eyes are green.**
   j. We / Australian **We’re Australian.**
   k. Michael / young **Michael’s young.**
the verb to be (2)

FORM

negative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>am not (I’m not)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You</td>
<td>(You’re not / You aren’t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We</td>
<td>are not (We’re not / We aren’t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They</td>
<td>(They’re not / They aren’t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He</td>
<td>(He’s not / He isn’t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She</td>
<td>is not (She’s not / She isn’t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It</td>
<td>(It’s not / It isn’t)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

questions

| Am | I am you |
|    | no you’re not / you aren’t |
| Are | we are they |
|    | no we’re not / we aren’t |
| Are | he |
|    | no he’s not / he isn’t |
| Is | she is it |
|    | no she’s not / she isn’t |

short answers

| Yes, I am you |
| No, I’m not you’re not / you aren’t |
| Yes, we are they |
| No, we’re not / we aren’t they’re not / they aren’t |
| Yes, he is he |
| No, he’s not / he isn’t |
| Yes, she is it |
| No, she’s not / she isn’t |

USE

We can use the verb to be to ask about

- ages.
- How old are you? Is he 16?
- occupations.
- Are you a student? No, I’m not.
- prices.
- How much is this? Is it expensive?
- the time.
- Is it ten o’clock? No, it isn’t. It’s eleven o’clock.
- feelings and states.
- I’m not tired. Are you tired?
- nationality.
- No, they’re not Spanish, they’re French. Are you English?
- colours.
- His eyes aren’t green, they’re blue.
Includes material from Units 1 and 2.

1 Complete the sentence with is, is not, are, are not, am or am not.
   a I ................................ Spanish, I'm Greek.
   b Peter ................................ a good student. He's a bad one!
   c Our eyes ................................ blue. They're brown.
   d My sister ................................ a police officer, she's a journalist.
   e ........................................ his brother tall?
   f The bus ................................ late, it's here now.
   g ........................................ you okay?
   h That film ................................ very good. The story is very boring.
   i They ........................................ tired, they're hungry.
   j ........................................ it cold today?

2 Write short answers to the questions.
   a Are you a good student? Yes, I am. / No, I'm not.
   b Are your parents at home now?
   c Is it Monday today?
   d Are you hungry?
   e Are your friends with you now?
   f Is your school in a large city?
   g Is it cold outside?
   h Are you young?
   i Is English easy?
   j Are these exercises difficult?

3 Correct the sentences.
   a 12.00 14.00 ✓
      It's twelve o'clock.
      No, it isn't. It's two o'clock.
   b 16.00 17.00 ✓
      It's four o'clock.
   c Thursday  Friday ✓
      It's Thursday today.
   d nurse  doctor ✓
      She's a nurse.
   e doctor  engineer ✓
      He's a doctor.
   f €50  €60 ✓
      The tickets are 50 euros.
   g $1.50 $1.60 ✓
      It's one dollar, fifty.
   h expensive  cheap ✓
      They're expensive.
   i 13 14 ✓
      Julian is thirteen.
4 Use the prompts and is, is not, are or are not to write full sentences. The map will help you.

a Berlin / Germany
   Berlin is in Germany.

b Paris / France

c Lyon / Spain

d Milan and Turin / Italy

e Brussels and Strasbourg / Germany

f Spain / the south of Europe

g Norway / the south of Europe

h Lisbon / Portugal?

i Bern and Basle / Switzerland?

j you / Europe?
Complete the dialogue with the correct form of the verb to be. Use short forms where possible.

DANIELA: Hello. a Are you from here?

ESTEVAN: No, we b. c Are you?

DANIELA: No, I d. e My name is Daniela.

ESTEVAN: Nice to meet you. I f Estevan. And this g Maite and Javier.

DANIELA: This h Estelle, and this i Maria. Where j you from?

ESTEVAN: We k from Spain.

DANIELA: I l you from Madrid?

ESTEVAN: No, we m. We n from the north of Spain. Javier and I o from Bilbao, and Maite p from San Sebastian.

DANIELA: q you here on holiday?

ESTEVAN: No, we r. It s a study trip. This t a beautiful place.

DANIELA: Yes, it u. v the trip fun?

ESTEVAN: Some of it. The museums w boring. x you here for a holiday?

DANIELA: Yes, I y with my parents but I want to be with my friends. It z much fun.

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EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Translate these sentences into your own language.

a My brother is six years old.
b I am 13 years old.
c A cup of coffee is €1.
d Is your father a teacher?
e We’re not interested in computers.
there is, there are

FORM

affirmative

There is (There's) a book on the table.
There are three students in the room.

USE

We use there is / are to say something exists.

There is a mistake in this exercise.
NOT A mistake is in the exercise. or It's a mistake in the exercise.

There are 109 elements in the Periodic Table.
NOT 109 elements are in the Periodic Table. or They are 109 elements in the Periodic Table.

After we say that something exists with there is / are we can then use it is or they are to give more details.

There's a computer in the classroom. It's very useful.
There's a book on the table. It's not mine.
There are nine planets in the solar system. They're easy to see with a telescope.
There are some instructions available for this DVD but they're on the Internet.

A: There's someone on the phone for you.
B: Who is it?
A: It's your sister, I think.
A: There are some people outside the door.
B: Who are they?
A: They're students.
1. Complete the sentence with *is* or *are*.
   a. There **are** 25 students in the class.
   b. There **are** a hospital in the city centre.
   c. There **are** a big supermarket near my house.
   d. There **are** two teachers in the room.
   e. There **are** 12 songs on this CD.
   f. There **are** a good film on TV tonight.
   g. There **are** his friends.
   h. There **are** your mobile phone.
   i. There **are** a computer and a TV in my room.
   j. There **are** seven books in my bag.
   k. There **are** no homework today.

2. Complete the sentence with *there* or *it*.
   a. There is a CD on the desk. **It** is mine.
   b. **There is** a nice day today.
   c. **There is** a new student in my class.
   d. There is a park next to my house. **It** is very beautiful.
   e. There is three o’clock.
   f. There is no one in the room.
   g. There is a man outside the window.
   h. There is a big shopping centre in my town. **It** is very popular.
   i. There is a teacher at my school called Mr Smith.
   j. There is so hot in this room!
   k. There is a swimming pool at my school. **It** is also a tennis court.

3. Complete the sentence with *there*, *it* or *they*.
   a. **There are** two bottles of water on the table.
   b. **There are** nurses, not doctors.
   c. There’s a cat in the kitchen. **It** is black and white.
   d. There are 30 people at the party. **They** are all my friends.
   e. **There is** cold outside. There’s snow on the ground.
   f. **They are** from London.
   g. They’re in the hall. **It** is an exam now.
   h. **There is** a very interesting book.
   i. There is my bag. **It** is next to the desk.
   j. My key is in my pocket. **It** is in a safe place!
   k. The students are very tired. **They** study too hard.