

OXFORD



CANADIAN GRAMMAR SPECTRUM

REFERENCE AND PRACTICE

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Be: Simple Present (1)

1 Here are some examples of **be** in the Simple Present:

*This **is** my brother. He's ten years old.*
*I'm a student. These **are** my books.*
*They **aren't** at home. They're at the theatre.*

2 We form the Simple Present of **be** like this:

POSITIVE		
	FULL FORM	SHORT FORM
Singular	I am	I'm
	you are	you're
	he/she/it is	he's/she's/it's
Plural	we are	we're
	you are	you're
	they are	they're
NEGATIVE		
	FULL FORM	SHORT FORM
Singular	I am not	I'm not
	you are not	you aren't
	he/she/it is not	he/she/it isn't
Plural	we are not	we aren't
	you are not	you aren't
	they are not	they aren't

3 In speech, we usually use the short forms:

She's my sister. He's my brother.
I'm from Italy. They're German.

4 We use **be**:

- ▶ to say who we are:
*I'm Steve and this **is** my friend Bill. We're from Scotland.*
*I'm Janet and these **are** my sisters. This **is** Sandra and this **is** Patricia. Sandra and Patricia **are** doctors.*
- ▶ to talk about the weather:
It's cold today.
It's a beautiful day.
It's usually hot here
*It **isn't** very warm today.*
- ▶ to talk about the time:
It's ten o'clock.
It's half past four.
You're late!
- ▶ to talk about places:
*Milan **is** in the north of Italy.*
*John and Mary **are** in Nunavut.*
- ▶ to talk about people's ages:
*My sister **is** six years old.*

Practice

A Maria is from Brazil. She is writing about herself and her family. Write full forms of **be** in the blanks.

- ▶ I am..... a student from Brazil.
- ▶ My parents are not..... (not) rich.
- 1 My father a teacher.
- 2 My mother (not) Brazilian.
- 3 She from America.
- 4 I twenty years old.
- 5 My little brother two.
- 6 My older brothers (not) students.
- 7 They in the army.
- 8 It often very hot in Brazil.

B Now fill in these blanks. This time, use short forms of *be*, as in the examples.

- ▶ I'm a doctor. ▶ I'm not (not) a bank manager.
- 1 She (not) a teacher. 6 It eight o'clock.
- 2 He a student. 7 We from Paris.
- 3 They at home. 8 We (not) from Bordeaux.
- 4 They (not) in the park. 9 You (not) twenty-one.
- 5 It (not) cold today. 10 I twenty-four.

C Choose words from the box to write in the blanks.

He's She's They're It's (x2) are is We isn't

- ▶ My parents live in Guatemala. *They're* teachers.
- 1 Halifax in England. in Canada.
- 2 Paul from Germany. German.
- 3 My sister is a doctor. thirty years old.
- 4 six o'clock! are late.
- 5 Look at the time! Chris and Mary late.

D Look at these pictures. These people are saying who they are. Write sentences, choosing the correct jobs from the box, as in the example.

a musician a farmer a bank manager a soccer player a dentist a doctor
~~a policeman~~ an artist a teacher a movie star a scientist a photographer



names: *I'm Paolo and this is Federico.*.....
 nationality: *We're from Italy.*.....
 jobs: *I'm a policeman and Federico is a soccer player.*.....



names:
 nationality:
 jobs:



names:
 nationality:
 jobs:



names:
 nationality:
 jobs:



names:
 nationality:
 jobs:



names:
 nationality:
 jobs:

Be: Simple Present (2)

1 We use be:

- ▶ to talk about how we feel:
 - I'm happy. They're sad.*
 - They're bored. She's tired.*
 - We're hungry. I'm thirsty.*
 - He isn't afraid. They're cold.*
- ▶ to greet people:
 - Bill: *Hello. How are you?*
 - Jane: *I'm fine thanks. How are you?*
- ▶ to apologize:
 - I'm sorry I'm late.*
- ▶ to describe things:
 - It isn't expensive. It's cheap.*
 - It's an old movie. It isn't very good.*
 - These photos are bad!*

(For other uses of be, see pages 2–3.)

2 We use there + be to talk about the existence of something. There + be can be used to talk about where things are:

SINGULAR: *There's a supermarket on this street.*
There is a telephone in the apartment.

PLURAL: *There are some good café downtown.*

We also use **there + be** to talk about when things happen:

There is a bus to Montreal at six o'clock.
There are taxis, but there aren't any buses on Sunday.
There isn't another train to Vancouver today.

3 We form questions with be in the Simple Present like this:

QUESTIONS		
Singular	Am I	} late?
	Are you	
	Is he/she/it	
Plural	Are we	} late?
	Are you	
	Are they	

Here are some examples of questions using all the forms of **be**:

Am I late for the movie?
Are you twenty years old?
Is he at home now?
Is she French or Italian?
Is it time to go home?
Are we ready to leave?
Are you both at university?
Are they in Laval today?

Practice

A Write sentences about the pictures using the words in the box. Use *He/She/They* and the Simple Present of *be*.

tired	sad	thirsty	happy
hungry	bored	afraid	cold



▶ *She's thirsty.....*



1 *He*



2 *They*



3 *.....*



4 *.....*



5 *.....*



6 *.....*



7 *.....*

B Use *there* + the correct form of *be* to say what we can and cannot find in the town of Smallwood.

- ▶ (a library: ✓) *There's* a library.
- ▶ (a river) *There isn't* a river.
- ▶ (restaurants: 10) *There are* ten restaurants.
- 1 (a castle: ✓) a castle.
- 2 (bakeries: 2) two bakeries.
- 3 (a zoo: ✓) a zoo.
- 4 (banks: 6) six banks.
- 5 (a luxury hotel: ✓) a luxury hotel.
- 6 (a theatre) a theatre.
- 7 (schools: 6) six schools.
- 8 (~~many tourists~~) many tourists.

C Write questions by putting the words in parentheses () in the correct order.

- ▶ (thirsty – you – are) *Are you thirsty?*
- 1 (a teacher – you – are)
- 2 (they – bored – are)
- 3 (is – afraid – he)
- 4 (she – tired – is)
- 5 (are – you – how)
- 6 (cold today – it – is)
- 7 (she – Spanish – is)
- 8 (they – from St. John's – are)

D Write forms of *be* in these conversations.

Steve: This (▶) *is* Joan, my sister.
 Tom: Hello, Joan. (1) you a student?
 Joan: No, I (2) a dentist. I work in Winnipeg.
 Mike: How are you, Sally?
 Sally: I (3) fine, thanks.
 Mike: (4) you hungry?
 Sally: Yes. (5) there a good restaurant near here?
 Mike: Yes. There (6) a good, cheap restaurant in Wellington Street.

E Write questions using the words in parentheses () and a form of *be*.

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
▶ (you/Indian)? <i>Are you Indian</i> ?	~ No, I'm French.
1 (you/hungry)? ?	~ No, I'm thirsty.
2 (she/your sister)? ?	~ No, she's my mother.
3 (I/late)? ?	~ No, you're on time.
4 (they/from the US)? ?	~ No, they're from Canada.
5 (he/a tennis player)? ?	~ No, he's a hockey player.
6 (you/happy)? ?	~ No, I'm sad.
7 (she/at home)? ?	~ No, she's at work.
8 (he/twenty)? ?	~ No, he's eighteen years old.

Simple Present (1)

1 We form the Simple Present like this:

POSITIVE	
<i>Singular</i>	I know you know he/she/it knows
<i>Plural</i>	we know you know they know

I know the answer.
She starts work at 9:30.

We add -s after he/she/it:

I start → he starts I live → she lives

If a verb ends in -ch, -o, -sh, or -ss, we add -es after he/she/it:

I watch → he watches you do → he does
they go → it goes we wash → she washes

If a verb ends in a consonant (b, c, etc.) + y (e.g. study), we use -ies after he/she/it:

I study → he studies I fly → it flies

(For more examples, see Appendix 2, page 95.)

2 Now look at these examples of the negative:

I don't like that music.
He doesn't listen to his teacher.

NEGATIVE	
FULL FORM	SHORT FORM
I do not know.	I don't know.
You do not know.	You don't know.
He/She/It does not know.	He doesn't know.
We do not know.	We don't know.
You do not know.	You don't know.
They do not know.	They don't know.

Note that we say:

He does not know. (NOT *He does not knows.*)

3 We use the Simple Present:

- ▶ to talk about things that happen regularly:
He plays golf every day.
- ▶ to talk about facts:
She comes from France. (= She is French.)
Markets sell vegetables.
I don't speak Chinese.



Practice

A Add -s or -es to the verbs in the sentences if it is necessary. If it is not necessary, put a check (✓) in the blank.

- ▶ He work in a bank.
- ▶ They live in Colombia.
- 1 I watch TV every day.
- 2 She go to work by car.
- 3 The movie finish at ten o'clock.
- 4 We play tennis every weekend.
- 5 They go on vacation in August.
- 6 He speak Italian and French.
- 7 She do her homework every night.
- 8 We start work at eight-thirty.

B Now finish these sentences using a verb from the box. Use each verb once. Remember to add -s or -es if necessary.

fly study finish eat sell smoke drink live

- ▶ He *eats*..... oatmeal for breakfast.
- 1 I coffee three times a day.
- 2 My father a new language every year.
- 3 She to Toronto once a month.
- 4 He ten cigarettes a day.
- 5 They in Ireland.
- 6 He work at six o'clock.
- 7 I fruit in a store.

