

# 1 Be: Present Simple (1)

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

*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 Present Simple 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 Yorkshire.*
- ▶ 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. Put full forms of be in the gaps.

- ▶ 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 these gaps. 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 put in the gaps.


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


- ▶ My parents live in Scotland. *They're* ..... teachers.
- 1 New York ..... in England. .... in America.
- 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 pop star    a farmer    a bank manager    ~~a footballer~~    a dentist    a doctor  
~~a policeman~~    an artist    a teacher    a film 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 footballer.*

1  names: .....  
nationality: .....  
jobs: .....

2  names: .....  
nationality: .....  
jobs: .....

3  names: .....  
nationality: .....  
jobs: .....

4  names: .....  
nationality: .....  
jobs: .....

5  names: .....  
nationality: .....  
jobs: .....