

# 2 Be: Present Simple (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 film. It isn't very good.*
  - These photos are bad!*

(For other uses of be, see Unit 1.)

## 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 in this street.*

*There is a telephone in the flat.*

PLURAL: *There are some good cafes in the centre of the town.*

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

*There is a bus to London at six o'clock.*

*There are taxis, but there aren't any buses on Sunday.*

*There isn't another train to Manchester today.*

## 3 We form questions with be in the Present Simple 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 film?*

*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 London today?*

## Practice

### A Make sentences about the pictures using the words in the box. Use He/She/They and the Present Simple 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 cinema: ✓) *There's* a cinema.
- ▶ (a river) *There isn't* ..... a river.
- ▶ (restaurants: 10) *There are* ..... ten restaurants.
- 1 (a castle: ✓) ..... a castle.
- 2 (baker's shops: 2) ..... two baker's shops.
- 3 (a zoo: ✓) ..... a zoo.
- 4 (banks: 6) ..... six banks.
- 5 (a luxury hotel: ✓) ..... a luxury hotel.
- 6 (a theatre) ..... a theatre.
- 7 (newsagents: 6) ..... six newsagents.
- 8 (many tourists) ..... many tourists.

**C** Write questions by putting the words in brackets ( ) 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 London – are) .....

**D** Put 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 Brighton.
- 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, and cheap, restaurant in Wellington Street.

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

- | QUESTIONS                                     | ANSWERS                        |
|---|--------------------------------|
| ▶ (you/Spanish)? <i>Are you Spanish</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 America)? .....                  | ~ No, they're from Canada.     |
| 5 (he/a tennis player)? .....                 | ~ No, he's a footballer.       |
| 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. |