

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.
 - 2 He a student.
 - 3 They at home.
 - 4 They (not) in the park.
 - 5 It (not) cold today.
 - 6 It eight o'clock.
 - 7 We from Paris.
 - 8 We (not) from Bordeaux.
 - 9 You (not) twenty-one.
 - 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: