

The Verb Être (to be) Notes

The verb Être is used to describe a person's characteristics and physical traits. The English equivalents are: **am, are, is**

The Forms of Être	
Je suis – I am	Nous sommes – We are
Tu es – You are	Vous êtes – You all are
Il/Elle/On est – He/She/One is	Ils/Elles sont – They are

In order to say something such as "Jean **is** smart and tall," I need the verb Être because I have used **is** as my verb, and I am describing Jean's characteristics and/or physical traits.

In French, an adjective must match the person or thing (noun) it is describing in both gender and number. For example, Jean is male and singular (just one person), so I must make the ending of my adjective masculine and singular.

Here are some adjectives that would work: grand, intelligent, fort, gentil, sympathique...

Let's look at an example with Marie. Marie is female and singular (just one person), so I must make the ending of any adjective I use for Marie feminine and singular.

Here are some adjectives that would work to describe her: grande, intelligente, forte, gentille, sympathique...

For yourself (if you are a male)...

Je **suis** grand, intelligent, fort, gentil, sympathique.

For yourself and others (if at least one member of the group is a male)...

Nous **sommes** grands, intelligents, forts, gentils, sympathiques.

For two or more boys...

Pierre et Jean **sont** grands, intelligents, forts, gentils, sympathiques.

(I had to make all of my adjectives masculine and plural because I am talking about two males.)

For a boy AND a girl...

Jean et Maria **sont** grands, intelligents, forts, gentils, sympathiques.

(Adjectives are masculine and plural. If I am talking about even one boy, I must make my adjectives masculine.)

For two or more girls...

Marie et Mélanie **sont** grandes, intelligentes, fortes, gentilles, sympathique. (plural and feminine)

Assignment: On a separate sheet of paper, write out the following sentences. In the first blank, write the correct form of **être**. In the second blank, write the given adjective in the correct form (in French). Remember, the correct forms of **ÊTRE** and the adjectives should agree in both gender and number.

1. Le garçon _____ (être) _____ (strong).
2. Nous (un garçon et une fille) _____ (être) _____ (kind).
3. Rachelle _____ (être) _____ (short).
4. Je _____ (être) _____ (nice).
5. Patrick _____ (être) _____ (thin).
6. Tu (une fille) _____ (être) _____ (funny).
7. Les filles _____ (être) _____ (intelligent).
8. Les élèves _____ (être) _____ (intelligent)
9. Vous _____ (être) _____ (lazy).
10. Tu (un garçon) _____ (être) _____ (athletic).
11. Le professeur _____ (être) _____ (serious).
12. Elle _____ (être) _____ (tall).

Assessment: You are in a new country and are introduced to some French-speakers that are curious about your life in the United States. They request that you tell them a little about yourself and your family.

Use the forms of **être** and the adjectives you have previously learned to describe yourself and your family in French to these new friends. Start by outlining what you will say, then give a spoken presentation to your class and/or teacher.

Here is the grading rubric that will be used:

<i>Presentational Speaking</i>	Meets Expectations (Novice-Mid) 5 points	Approaching Expectations (Novice-Low) 4 points	Does Not Meet Expectations 3 points
Vocabulary	The student uses some new vocabulary words.	The student uses few vocabulary words. Response is lacking details.	The student is unable to recall any words. The student uses English.
Language Control	The student has few mistakes. The student is clearly understood.	The student has some mistakes. The student is mostly understood.	The student makes several mistakes. The student is difficult to understand.
Cohesion	The student uses phrases and simple sentences.	The student uses single words or lists.	The student is unable to recall words. The student uses English.

No Response = 0 points