

Grammar reference

1.1 The verb to be

GR1.1a

Positive (+)	Negative (-)
I am from Thailand. I'm from Thailand.	I am not Swiss. I'm not Swiss.
You are Thai. You're Thai.	You are not from Egypt. You aren't from Egypt.
He is from Brazil. He's from Brazil.	He is not happy. He isn't happy.
She is Brazilian. She's Brazilian.	She is not hungry. She isn't hungry.
It is late. It's late.	It is not Friday today. It isn't Friday today.
We are married. We're married.	We are not from Chile. We aren't from Chile.
They are teachers. They're teachers.	They are not Italian. They aren't Italian.

We use the verb *to be* ...

- when we describe someone or something, e.g. *He's big.*
- to talk about age, e.g. *I'm forty.*

In everyday conversation and informal writing we use contractions:
'*re not/aren't, 's not/isn't, 'm not.*

' = a missing letter, e.g. *He is* → *He's.*

In formal writing we use full forms, e.g. *They are not.*

yes/no questions and short answers

GR1.1b

- 1 A **Are** they twins? 2 A **Is** it ten o'clock?
B Yes, they **are**. B No, it **isn't**.

Questions (?)	Short answers
Am I	Yes, I am . No, I'm not .
Are you	Yes, you are . No, you aren't .
Is he/she/it	Yes, he/she/it is . No, he/she/it isn't .
Are we/they	Yes, we/they are . No, we/they aren't .

In questions, we put *am, is, are* before *I, you, he, she, it, we, they*.

In positive short answers we use full forms.

- A *Are you German?*
B *Yes, I am.* NOT *Yes, I'm.*

In negative short answers we use full forms or contractions.

- A *Are we early?*
B *No, we are not./No, we aren't.*

- 1 Complete sentences 1-7 with *am, is, are*, and write the contractions.

- 1 I am from Korea → I'm
2 She _____ very happy today. → _____
3 They _____ from Vietnam. → _____
4 She _____ not here. → _____
5 I _____ not Spanish. → _____
6 You _____ not worried. → _____
7 It _____ not a French restaurant. → _____

- 2 Put the words in the right order to make questions and short answers.

- 1 A Russian / Are / you? Are you Russian?
B not / No, / I'm No, I'm not.
2 A Ben / Is / name / your? _____
B it / Yes, / is _____
3 A I / late / Am / class / for / today? _____
B Yes, / are / you _____
4 A Are / British / they? _____
B No, / American / they're _____
5 A Austria / Are / you / from? _____
B we / No, / aren't _____
6 A she / Is / a / teacher? _____
B she / No, / isn't _____

- 3 Make questions and short answers.

- 1 Is he a student? ✓ Yes, he is.
2 _____ you from Malaysia? X No,
3 _____ I in the right room? X _____
4 _____ it your first day here? ✓ _____
5 _____ we in the same class? ✓ _____

- 4 Put the conversation in the right order.

- A Hi, my name's Luigi. 1
A No, I'm Italian. _____
B Hi, I'm Asli. Are you from Spain? _____
A No, not Rome. I'm from Naples in the South. _____
Where are you from? _____
B Oh, are you from Rome? _____
A Oh good! _____
B Yes, they are, and the teacher is nice. _____
A Yes, I am. It's my first day. Are the students friendly? _____
B I'm from Istanbul in Turkey. Are you a student in this class? _____
B OK! Let me introduce you to my friends. 10