

## The verb to be



- A: Mum, am I a real polar bear?
- B: Yes dear, of course you are.
- A: Really?
- B: Of course. Look at your dad! He's a polar bear. Look at your brothers. They're polar bears. Look at your sister. She's a polar bear.
- A: I know, Mum, but I'm sure I'm not a polar bear.
- B: How are you so sure?
- A: Because I'm cold!

Affirmative		Negative		Interrogative	Short Answers	
Long Form	Short Form	Long Form	Short Form			
I am you are he is she is it is we are you are they are	I'm you're he's she's it's we're you're they're	I am not you are not he is not she is not it is not we are not you are not they are not	1	Am I? Are you? Is he? Is she? Is it? Are we? Are you? Are they?	Yes, I am. Yes, you are. Yes, he is. Yes, she is. Yes, it is. Yes, we are. Yes, you are. Yes, they are.	No, I'm not. No, you aren't. No, he isn't. No, she isn't. No, it isn't. No, we aren't. No, you aren't. No, they aren't.

- We normally use the long form of the verb to be when we write. She is from Brazil and she is 17 years old.
- We normally use the short form of the verb to be when we speak. "What's this?" "It's a book."
- We do not repeat the whole question in short answers. We only use Yes or No, the subject pronoun and the appropriate verb form.

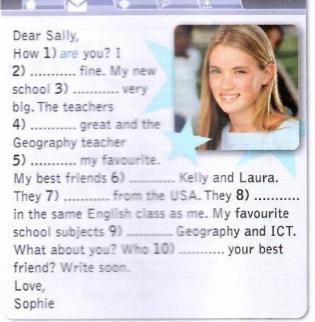
We use the long form of the verb to be in positive short answers. Is she a teacher? Yes, she is.

(NOT: Yes, she's.)
We use the short form of the verb to be in negative short answers. Are you Polish? No, I'm not.

(NOT: No, Lam not.)

- Look at the joke above. How do we form the verb to be in the affirmative/negative/ interrogative? When do we use the short form of the verb to be?
- [2] Fill in 'm/am, 's/is, 're/are, as in the example.
  - 1 I'm/am fourteen.
  - 2 Karen ...... Polish.
  - 3 They ..... brothers.
  - 4 He ..... from Thailand.
  - 5 Mark and Tom ...... American.
  - 6 You ..... 19 years old.
  - 7 Peter ...... a teacher.
  - 8 We ..... sisters.
  - 9 1 ..... in year 8.
  - 10 It ..... a red sharpener.
  - 11 Maria .....from Greece.
  - 12 Lucy and I ..... friends.

Complete the sentences with is, am or are.



4	Underline the correct form of the verb to
	be.

- 1 We isn't/aren't sisters.
- 2 Is/Are they from Turkey?
- 3 "Is this your pencil?" "Yes, it's/is."
- 4 They're/'s in my class.
- 5 She's from Brazil. She isn't/aren't from Spain.
- 6 He is/are a football player.
- 7 "Are you fifteen?" "Yes, I is/am."
- 8 You is/are good at Maths.

[5] Fill in with: are, is, 's, 're, 'm, 'm not or ar	en't
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- 1 A: How old are your friends?
  - B: Dan ...... sixteen and Jack ...... fifteen.
  - 2 A: ..... you good at basketball?
    - B: No, I ...... good at football.
  - 3 A: Where ..... you from?
    - B: We ..... from Egypt. We ...... Egyptian.
  - 4 A: What time ...... it?
    - B: It ..... four o'clock.
  - 5 A: ..... they singers?
    - B: No, they ...... They ..... dancers.
  - 6 A: Who ...... he?
    - B: He ..... Steve. He ..... my brother.

## Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

1 are/Poland/we/from

We are from Poland.

- 2 a/are/teacher/you?
- 3 shy/Emily/is
- 4 from/are/Poland/they?
- nonvaron orang may.
- 5 old/he/eighteen/years/is/not,
- 6 favourite/my/sport/hockey/is

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Look at the picture and the notes. Fill in the gaps with: is, are, am, isn't, 'm not.



- Put the words in the correct order to make questions. Then match the questions to the answers.

Mario: No, it ...... It ..... hockey.

1 c g	ood/Chemistry/you/at/are?
A	re you good at Chemistry?
2 th	ney/Brazil/are/from?
3 h	e/your/is/class/in?
4 S	Sophie/best/is/friend/your?
5 fa	avourite/sport/your/football/is?
a No	it isn't.

- b Yes, he is.
- c Yes, I am.
- d No, she isn't.
- e No, they aren't.



Look at the pictures. Ask and answer, as in the example.









- Write the questions for the answers, as in the example.
  - 1 A: Are you British?

    B: No, I'm not British. I'm American.

    2 A: .......................?

    B: Yes, it is. Basketball is my favourite sport.

    3 A: .....................?

    B: Yes, they are. They are from Russia.

    4 A: .......................?

    B: Yes, I am. My best friend is

sixteen, too.

a) Look at the table and complete the text with the affirmative or negative form of be.

	Class	Good at tennis	Good at running	Good at basketball
Paul (16)	9C	Х	1	1
Sally (16)	9C	Х	X	1
Tony (16)	9C	1	X	/
Sarah (16)	9C	X	/	/



- b) Look at the table again. Then write the short answers.
- 1 Is Tony sixteen years old? Yes, he is.
- 2 Are Paul and Sarah good at tennis?

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4......

- 3 Is Sally good at running?
- 4 Are Tony and Paul good at basketball?
- 5 Is Paul seventeen years old?

## Speaking

Work in pairs. Ask each other questions about:

- age favourite sport favourite colour
- · favourite subject · favourite athlete
- A: Are you sixteen?
- B: No, I'm not. I'm seventeen.
- A: Is your favourite sport basketball?
- B: No. it isn't. It's tennis. etc.

## Writing

Use your partner's answers to write a short text about him/her.

Michael is sixteen years old. His favourite sport is tennis.