

## 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)? Are you Spanish.....	?	~ 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.