



Present tenses

32 I'm Sam.

I'm Sam. He **isn't** ready. Are they here?

We use *be*:

- to say who somebody is or what something is: *I'm Sam. That's my ticket.*
- to describe something or somebody: *Your shoes are nice. He's tall.*
- to say where somebody is from: *He's American. We're from Brazil.*
- to talk about people's jobs: *She's a teacher. My father's a doctor.*
- to talk about somebody's age: *I'm nineteen. Sally's twenty one.*
- to say how we feel: *We're tired. He's angry.*
- to say where somebody or something is: *She's at home. Your bag's on the chair.*
- to talk about somebody's health: *I'm fine. Kate's ill.*

Affirmative	Negative	Question
I'm (am)	I'm not (am not)	Am I?
he/she/it's (is)	he/she/it isn't (is not)	Is he/she/it?
you/we/they're (are)	you/we/they aren't (are not)	Are you/we/they?

Short answers	Yes, I am.	Yes, he/she/it is.	Yes, you/we/they are.
	No, I'm not.	No, he/she/it isn't.	No, you/we/they aren't.

▶▶ See Appendix 11: Short forms of verbs, page 171.

PRACTICE

32a Complete what Richard says. Use *am*, *is* or *are*.

My name (0) *is* Richard. I (1) twenty one. I (2) a student at Bristol University. Bristol (3) a big city in the west of England. My parents (4) from Nigeria but I (5) British. My two brothers (6) lawyers and my sister (7) an accountant. My brothers and sister (8) married but I (9) single. I have a niece, too. She (10) three.

32b Correct the sentences. Use the short forms of *be*.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 0 A: She's Japanese. (Korean) | B: No, <i>she isn't Japanese. She's Korean</i> |
| 1 A: We're late. (early) | B: No, |
| 2 A: They're from Italy. (Poland) | B: No, |
| 3 A: You're ill. (fine) | B: No, |
| 4 A: He's a journalist. (doctor) | B: No, |
| 5 A: I'm fat. (thin) | B: No, |

32c Complete the conversation. Use *be* and the words in brackets.

- A: (0) *Are you and Teri* (you and Teri) in the same band?
 B: No, (00) *we aren't*
 A: (1) (you) the singer in your band?
 B: No, (2) I'm the drummer.
 A: (3) (Kim) the singer?
 B: Yes. And Laura's the guitarist.
 A: Really? (4) (Laura and Kim) sisters?
 B: No, (5) They're friends.
 A: Oh. So, (6) (your gig) on Saturday at the KoolKlub?
 B: No, (7)
 A: Where (8) (it)?
 B: It's at the T8, at 9.30.
 A: And (9) (you) ready for it?
 B: Yes, (10)
 A: Good luck then!
 B: Thanks.

32d Complete the e-mail. Use *be*.

New Message

✖

Hi, Alex!

How (0) *are* you? How (1) Nikki? I (2) fine. My hostel (3) OK. My room (4) big, but it's comfortable. Sarah and Neil (5) in London this year, too. They (6) on my course, but they're at my college, and Sarah and I (7) in the same hostel.

What about you? (8) your new job interesting? Do you like it?

Write soon!

Clare