

# 36 Questions with be



- Who is he? He's Andrea Bocelli.
- Is he British? No, he isn't. He's Italian.

## 1 Form

| Yes/No QUESTIONS |           |       | SHORT ANSWERS      |                                               |
|------------------|-----------|-------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Am               | I         | late? | Yes, I am.         | No, I'm not.                                  |
| Is               | he/she/it |       | Yes, he/she/it is. | No, he/she/it isn't. No, he's/she's/it's not. |
| Are              | we        |       | Yes, we are.       | No, we aren't/we're not.                      |
| Are              | you       |       | Yes, you are.      | No, you aren't/you're not.                    |
| Are              | they      |       | Yes, they are.     | No, they aren't/they're not.                  |

### Wh- QUESTIONS

|         |         |               |
|---------|---------|---------------|
| Where   | am      | I?            |
| Who     | are     | you?          |
| What    | is ('s) | your job?     |
| How old | is ('s) | your brother? |

## 2 Use

We use *be* to ask about

- names, nationality, jobs and family:  
*What's your name? Is Sandra Canadian? Are they doctors? Is she married?*
- feelings:  
*Are you hungry? How are you? Is she happy?*
- position and time:  
*Where is it? Is your house near here? What time is it? Am I late?*

! In questions, we put the verb *be* before the subject of the sentence:

- ~~✗ You are hungry?~~ ✓ *Are you hungry?*  
~~✗ What your job is?~~ ✓ *What's your job?*

## 3 Short answers

We usually use the short form of the verb in short answers with *no*:  
*Is he British? No, he isn't.*

! We don't use the short form of the verb in short answers with *yes*:

- ~~✗ Yes, they're.~~  
*Are those people students? ✓ Yes, they are.*

! We use pronouns, not nouns, in short answers:

- ~~✗ Yes, my house is.~~  
*Is your house near here? ✓ Yes, it is.*
- ~~✗ Yes, Carrie and Karl are.~~  
*Are Carrie and Karl married? ✓ Yes, they are.*

## Practice

### 1 Write questions. Use the words below.

- 0 you / English / or / Scottish *Are you English or Scottish?*  
 00 where / your / house *Where is your house?*  
 1 Maria / a / student .....  
 2 your / brothers / married .....  
 3 where / the / post office .....  
 4 I / early .....  
 5 who / your / teacher .....  
 6 the / station / near / here .....

### 2 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the conversation with forms of be.

- A What a lovely family photo. (0) *Are* they your children?  
 B No, they (1) ..... They (2) ..... my sister's children.  
 A The girl (3) ..... pretty. How old (4) ..... she?  
 B She (5) ..... four.  
 A (6) ..... she at school?  
 B No, she (7) ..... She (8) ..... very young!  
 A Who (9) ..... the two people at the back?  
 B They (10) ..... my parents.



### 3 Write true short answers.

- 0 Are you American? *No, I'm not.*  
 1 Are you a student? .....  
 2 Are you Polish? .....  
 3 Are you married? .....  
 4 Are your parents teachers? .....  
 5 Is your house in a town? .....  
 6 Is Eminem Australian? .....  
 7 Are Mercedes cars German? .....  
 8 Is it winter now? .....

### 4 Complete the questions and give true answers. Write complete sentences.

- 0 What *is* your surname?  
*My surname is Lopez.*  
 1 What nationality ..... you?  
 .....  
 2 How old ..... your brother/sister?  
 .....  
 3 Where ..... your parents at the moment?  
 .....  
 4 What ..... the name of your home town?  
 .....  
 5 Who ..... your favourite singer?  
 .....