

Activity Type

Reading and Grammar Exercises: identifying, true or false comprehension questions, gap-fill, error correction, writing sentences from prompts

Focus

Verb *to be*

Aim

To practice present simple verb *to be* subject-verb agreement in affirmative and negative sentences as well as questions and answers.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Elementary (A1-A2)

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

In this verb *to be* worksheet, students practice present simple verb *to be* subject-verb agreement in affirmative and negative sentences as well as questions and answers.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

First, students read a text about a family and underline all the examples of the verb *to be* in the description.

Next, students read statements about the text and mark them true or false.

Exercise B - Answer key

True: 3, 4, 6, 7 False: 1, 2, 5, 8

Students then complete sentences with the correct form of the verb *to be*.

Exercise C - Answer key

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. is, am, are | 5. isn't, is | 9. is, are |
| 2. isn't, is | 6. are, are | 10. is, isn't |
| 3. is, is | 7. is, is | |
| 4. aren't, are | 8. aren't, are | |

Students then move on to complete questions and answers with the correct form of the verb *to be*.

Exercise D - Answer key

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. is | 5. Are, am | 9. Are, are |
| 2. are | 6. Are, am not. | 10. Is, is |
| 3. Is, is | 7. Am, aren't | |
| 4. Is, isn't | 8. Are, aren't | |

After that, students rewrite sentences, correcting verb *to be* errors.

Exercise E - Answer key

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. We are students. | 6. My hair is blonde. |
| 2. They aren't lazy. They are active. | 7. This shirt is blue. |
| 3. He is smart. | 8. I am not tired. |
| 4. We are excited about the holiday. | 9. You are a dancer. |
| 5. I am not a doctor. | 10. I am 20 years old. |

Lastly, students use the singular and plural forms of the verb *to be* to make two sentences about different topics. When the students have finished, review their sentences as a class.

A. Read the text and underline all the examples of the verb *to be*.

I am a fourteen-year-old girl. I am tall and thin. My hair is brown, and my eyes are green. My family isn't small. There are six people in my family. I have two brothers and one sister. My sister is slim, and her eyes are blue. Her hair isn't blonde. It is dark brown. My younger brother is similar to me. His eyes are green, but his hair is red. He really loves sport. My youngest brother is still a baby. He is only two years old. My parents are tall and slim. My mum's hair is dark brown, and her eyes are blue. My father's hair is red, and his eyes are green. We are a happy family. We aren't lazy. We are active and healthy. I love playing football in my free time and so do my brother and sister. We hope to be football players in the future.

B. Read the statements about the text. Are they true or false? Write 'true' or 'false' on the lines.

1. She is fifteen years old.
2. There are five people in her family.
3. Her sister is slim.
4. Her brother enjoys sport.
5. Her parents aren't tall.
6. Her mum's hair is dark brown.
7. They are a happy family.
8. Her brother and sister are football players.



C. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb *to be*.

1. My name Kate. I a student. My friends students too.
2. Max (negative) from here. He from Mexico.
3. My mother's hair long, but my hair short.
4. My father's eyes (negative) blue. They brown.
5. My mum (negative) a doctor. She a nurse.
6. My brother and I in the school band, and we both on the football team.
7. My sister's likes her car because it fast, but I don't like it because it pink.
8. My friends and I (negative) old. We fourteen years old.
9. London a very big city. The people there from all over the world.
10. My father good at making things, but he (negative) good at cooking.

D. Complete the questions and answers with the correct form of the verb *to be*.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. What her name? | 6. you OK? No, I |
| 2. Where you from? | 7. I right? No, you |
| 3. he your father? Yes, he | 8. we there yet? No, we |
| 4. he rich. No, he | 9. they students? Yes, they |
| 5. you English? Yes, I | 10. she a teacher? Yes, she |

E. Rewrite the sentences, correcting the verb *to be* errors.

- We is students.
- They isn't lazy. They is active.
- He are smart.
- We is excited about the holiday.
- I aren't a doctor.
- My hair are blonde.
- This shirt are blue.
- I aren't tired.
- You is a dancer.
- I are 20 years old.

F. Use the singular and plural forms of the verb *to be* to make two sentences about each topic.

Example: Your mother

 *My mother **is** a good cook. Her cakes **are** delicious.*

- Your town or city
.....
- Your favourite hobby
.....
- Your friends
.....