

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	I'm	I am not	I'm not	Am I ...?	Yes, I am.	No, I'm not.
you are	you're	you are not	you aren't	Are you ...?	Yes, you are.	No, you aren't.
he is	he's	he is not	he isn't	Is he ...?	Yes, he is.	No, he isn't.
she is	she's	she is not	she isn't	Is she ...?	Yes, she is.	No, she isn't.
it is	it's	it is not	it isn't	Is it ...?	Yes, it is.	No, it isn't.
we are	we're	we are not	we aren't	Are we ...?	Yes, we are.	No, we aren't.
you are	you're	you are not	you aren't	Are you ...?	Yes, you are.	No, you aren't.
they are	they're	they are not	they aren't	Are they ...?	Yes, they are.	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, ~~I am not~~.)

- 1 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.

- I'm/am fourteen.
- Karen Polish.
- They brothers.
- He from Thailand.
- Mark and Tom American.
- You 19 years old.
- Peter a teacher.
- We sisters.
- I in year 8.
- It a red sharpener.
- Maria from Greece.
- Lucy and I friends.

- 3 Complete the sentences with *is*, *am* or *are*.

Dear Sally,

How 1) **are** you? I

2) fine. My new

school 3) very

big. The teachers

4) great and the

Geography teacher

5) my favourite.

My best friends 6) Kelly and Laura.

They 7) from the USA. They 8) in the same English class as me. My favourite school subjects 9) Geography and ICT. What about you? Who 10) your best friend? Write soon.

Love,

Sophie



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 aren't.

- 1 A: How old are your friends?
B: Dan sixteen and Jack fifteen.
- 2 A: you good at basketball?
B: No, I 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.

6 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?
.....
- 5 old/he/eighteen/years/is/not
.....
- 6 favourite/my/sport/hockey/is
.....

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



Sue, 16,
hockey, the UK

Mario, 18,
tennis, Spain

Anna, 17,
basketball, Russia

- 1 Mario: Where are you from, Anna?
Anna: I am from Russia.
- 2 Mario: Sue from Russia?
Anna: No, she She from the UK.
- 3 Anna: you fifteen, Sue?
Sue: No, I I sixteen.
- 4 Sue: you eighteen, Mario?
Mario: Yes, I
- 5 Sue: What your favourite sport, Mario?
Mario: It tennis.
- 6 Anna: Sue's favourite sport basketball?
Mario: No, it It hockey.

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

- 1 ☐ C good/Chemistry/you/at/are?
Are you good at Chemistry?
- 2 ☐ they/Brazil/are/from?
.....
- 3 ☐ he/your/is/class/in?
.....
- 4 ☐ Sophie/best/is/friend/your?
.....
- 5 ☐ favourite/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.

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



- 1 A: *Is it* a football?
B: No, *it isn't*. *It's* a basketball.
- 2 A: potatoes?
B: No, tomatoes.
- 3 A: a footballer?
B: No, a tennis player.
- 4 A: a doctor?
B: No, a scientist.

- 10 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.

- 11 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	X	✓	✓
Sally (16)	9C	X	X	✓
Tony (16)	9C	✓	X	✓
Sarah (16)	9C	X	✓	✓

Hi bloggers!

Welcome to my homepage. I 1) *'m* Sarah and I 2) from America. My favourite sport 3) basketball, and I 4) really good at it! Tony, Sally and Paul 5) my friends. We 6) all in the same class. Tony 7) good at tennis, but he 8) good at running. Sally and Paul 9) good at basketball, but they 10) very good at tennis! What about you?

- 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?
.....
- 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.