

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.)

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)? <i>Are you Spanish?</i> | ~ 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. |