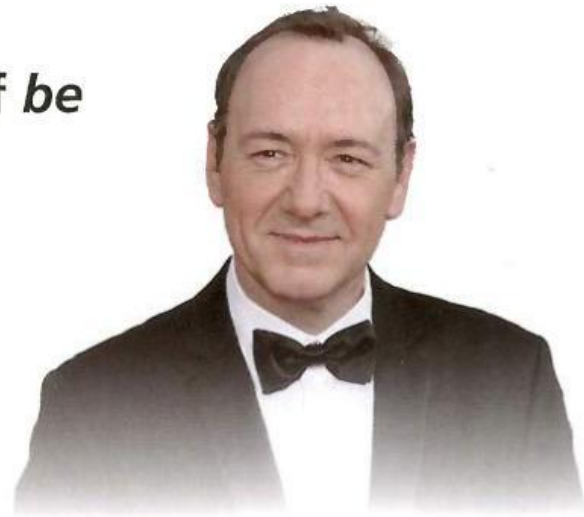


# 35 Present simple of *be*

This is Kevin Spacey. He's an actor.  
But he isn't British, he's American.  
His shows are very popular.



## 1 Form

POSITIVE			SHORT FORM	
I	am		I'm	
He/She/It	is		He's/She's/It's	
We	are	English.	We're	from Cuba.
You	are		You're	
They	are		They're	

NEGATIVE			SHORT FORM	
I	am not		I'm not	
He/She/It	is not		He/She/It isn't He's/She's/It's not	
We	are not	British.	We aren't/We're not	French.
You	are not		You aren't/You're not	
They	are not		They aren't/They're not	

**NATURAL ENGLISH** We use short forms (*I'm*, *I'm not*, *You're*, etc.) when we are speaking to someone and in informal writing.

## 2 Use

We use the verb *be*

- to describe people and things:  
*This is my brother. We aren't teachers, we're students.*  
*My car is Japanese. My sisters are both married.*

! ~~*I not married.*~~ ✓ *I'm not married.*

- to talk about our feelings or ideas:  
*We're all tired and hungry. This book is boring. His shows are very popular.*
- to describe position and time:  
*My flat's close to the city centre. It's two o'clock.*

! Use *be* not *have*  
~~*X I have cold.*~~ ✓ *I'm cold.*  
~~*X I have hungry.*~~ ✓ *I'm hungry.*  
~~*X He has six years old.*~~ ✓ *He's six years old.*

there + *be* > Unit 75    *it* + *be* > Unit 76.1

# Practice

## 1 Write sentences with forms of *be*. Use the words below.

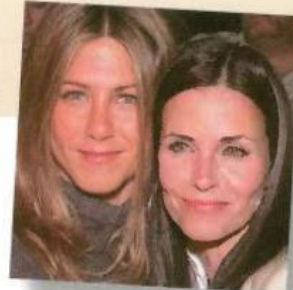
- 0 Angela not a student *Angela isn't a student.*
- 1 My brother married .....
- 2 Our house near the bus stop .....
- 3 I very hungry .....
- 4 We not Canadian .....
- 5 The bank close to the station .....
- 6 I not an English teacher .....
- 7 It time for lunch now .....
- 8 Those magazines not very interesting .....

## 2 Read the information. Write sentences about these famous people. Use short forms where possible.

comedian  
not American  
from Ontario, Canada  
not married  
1.71 metres tall  
very funny



actors  
very rich  
American  
not from New York



- 0 Mike Myers is a *comedian* .....
- 1 He's .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 Jennifer Aniston and Courteney Cox .....
- 7 .....
- 8 .....
- but .....

## 3 GRAMMAR IN USE There are six more mistakes in the text. Find and correct them.

Michael Mason <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ my best friend. He's Australian and he am an actor. He's a very good actor – but he not very famous. He's twenty-six and he married. Michael and his wife not are very rich, but they is happy. Michael's very friendly and funny. He a really nice person is!

## 4 Write about your best friend. Write three or four sentences like the examples in Exercise 3.

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