

# 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	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:

*Is your house near here? ✗ Yes, my house is.*  
*Is your house near here? ✓ Yes, it is.*

⚠ *Are Carrie and Karl married? ✗ 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 ..... *are* ..... you?  
.....

2 How old ..... *is* ..... your brother/sister?  
.....

3 Where ..... *are* ..... your parents at the moment?  
.....

4 What ..... *is* ..... the name of your home town?  
.....

5 Who ..... *is* ..... your favourite singer?  
.....