Oxford Living GRAMMAR

elementary

Learn and practise grammar in context



Be: Present simple I am; I'm not

- 1 Some examples of be in the present simple. This is my brother. He's ten years old. I'm eighteen and a student; these are my books. My parents aren't at home; they're at work.
- 2 Here are the present simple forms of be:

POSITIVE	Full form	Short form
Singular	l am you are he/she/it is	l'm you're he/she/it's
Plural	we are you are they are	we're you're they're
NEGATIVE	Full form	Short form
Singular	I am not you are not he/she/it is not	I'm not you're not or you aren't he/she/it's not or he/she/it isn't
Plural	we are not you are not they are not	we're not or we aren't you're not or you aren't they're not or they aren't

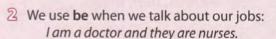
We usually use the short forms in speech. She's my sister. He's my brother. I'm from Germany. They're students.

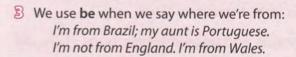
→ For information on question forms, see p. 4.

3 We use be to talk about the family, jobs, saying who we are, talking about the weather or a location and talking about age.

Grammar in action

- 1 We use **be** when we introduce ourselves and our families:
 - These are my sisters and this is my
 - I'm Steve; this is my partner, Ruth. She's 30 years old but I'm younger.





4 We use be when we talk about the weather:

> It's a beautiful day but it's cold. It's not very warm today and it's very windy.



We use be when we talk about location:

Milan is in the north but it isn't near Venice.

We also use be to form continuous tenses.

→ For more information on the present continuous, see p. 10.

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A Introductions

(i) Add the correct forms of be. Use the short form where possible.

⁰ 20 and I ______1 a student. My father _____² from Brazil. My mother 3 (not) from Brazil. She ______ from Dublin. 5 from Dublin. Paul and Simon _____6 my brothers. They _____7 both teachers. Simon 8 23 and Paul 9 25, so I 10 (not) the oldest.

(ii) Which use of be in (i) matches these contexts? Choose one example.

0 Age 1'm 20. 1 Job 2 Nationality 3 Family

Home, nationality and jobs В

We're meeting people at a party. What are they saying? Add the correct forms of be. Use the short form where possible.



C The weather and location

It's the first day of a new class. Four students are talking about their countries. Add the correct forms of be or one of the words in the box. Use the pictures to help you.

sun	ny sea near south north cold
KUMIKO	Hello. I'm Kumiko. I'm from Tomakomai. It 's oin the north of Japan.
	It' 5 o cold in the winter, and it 1 hot in the summer. Tomakomai 2 a small town 3 Sapporo.
GALINA	Hi, I'm Galina. I'm from St. Petersburg. It4 in the west of Russia. It5 (not) very hot! In fact, it's very6 in the winter. But sometimes it7 sunny! St. Petersburg8 (not) the capital of Russia, of course, but it's a very big city.
ABBAS	I'm Abbas, and this is my cousin, Sulama. We're from Oman. It
SULAMA	We're from two small towns in the



Be: Present simple Are you hungry?; What time is it?

To make questions with be, we put the verb before the subject:

QUESTIONS			
Singular	Am I?	Plural	Are we?
	Are you?		Are you?
	Is he/she/it?		Are they?

5 These questions can be answered with yes or no: Are you here on holiday? ~ Yes, I am. Is your son a student? ~ No, he's not.

The answers are short: Yes, I am. NOT Yes, I am on holiday.

- → For more information on yes/no questions and short answers see unit 12.
- 6 We can use question words to make questions with be, too:

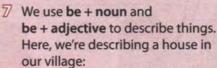
What's your job? Where are your friends? How old is your brother?

→ For more information on question words, see unit 12.

Grammar in action

6 We use be + adjective to describe how we feel. We might talk about a journey:

Are you unhappy? ~ No, but I'm cold and tired. ~ I'm sorry. It's a long journey.



It's a lovely old house and the garden's very large, but it's so expensive!





We can use there + be to talk about where things are or when things happen.

→ For more information, see p. 82.



D Asking and answering questions

Ming is a student from Shanghai. This is her first day in London. People ask her questions at the airport and at her new college. First put the words in the right order to make the questions on the left of the page.

0	Is this your suitcase? (your suitcase/this/is) Yes, it is.
1	(a student/you/are)
2	('s/your name/what)
3	(you/are/how old)
4	(are/from Hong Kong/you)
5	(your ID card, please/is/where)
6	(what/your address in the UK/'s)

Now write these answers in the correct spaces next to the questions above:

Here it is. I'm 22. Yes, I am. Yes, it is. No, I'm from Shanghai. It's The Hyde Park Hotel, Queensway, London W2 3BJ. It's Ming Yifeng.

Finally, use a form of be to make the questions that Ming asks at her college and hotel.

0 Is this my new timetable? (this my new timetable) 0 What time is our first class? (our first class) (this your first day here, too)

8	Where	(you from)
9		(I in the correct classroom)
10		(this the bus to Queensway)
11	Where	(the Hyde Park Hotel, please)
12	What time	(breakfast tomorrow morning)

A holiday conversation

Sally is on holiday in Greece. She meets Liga in a café. Add the word(s) in brackets and a form of be to their conversation. Use capital letters where necessary.

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SALLY Hi, I'm (I) Sally.
      Pleased to meet you. I'm Liga. _______1 (you) here on holiday?
SALLY Yes. 2 (it) a beautiful town, and it's so sunny here! But 3 (I) sad
      because it's my last day.
      Oh, I'm sorry. Where _______ (you) from, Sally?
SALLY Athenry. _____5 (it) a nice little town in Ireland, but _____6 (it/not) very
      sunny. And you?
     I'm from Riga. It's the capital of Latvia. I'm here with my boyfriend, and
LIGA
      7 (this) our first day, so ______8 (we) happy!
SALLY .....9 (you) lucky!
WAITER Good morning, ladies. Would you like something to eat?
......<sup>11</sup> (I) thirsty, too. A lemonade, please.
SALLY Well, _____12 (it) good to meet you, Liga, if only for a day!
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At a bus stop

Katie and Asif meet Dieter at a bus stop. After the example, add twenty more positive and two more negative forms of be. Use capital letters where necessary.

Look at the time. It $\frac{1}{1}$ two in the morning. Where we? ASIF On Burley Street, I think. you hungry, Asif? KATIE

ASIF No, I hungry, but I tired. Where the bus stop?

KATIE Look, it there! Come on!

(At the bus stop they meet Dieter.)

Excuse me. this the bus stop for Rayne's Park? ASIF

DIETER Yes, I hope so. It a cold night.

KATIE Hi. I Katie and this my friend Asif.

DIETER Pleased to meet you. I Dieter. you students?

KATIE No, we students. We doctors. And you?

DIETER I a waiter at the Hamburger restaurant on Park Street.

Where you from? you German? ASIF

DIETER No, I Austrian, but I in Leicester for six months. It an interesting city.

KATIE Look, the bus here! I hope it warm inside. After you, Dieter. Come on, Asif.



Present simple I work; he studies

- 1 Some examples of the **present simple**:

 I come from France, but I speak English.

 She usually **phones** me at the weekend.

 We live in the centre of Beijing.
- 2 The positive form of the **present simple** only changes after *he/she/it*:

POSITIVE

Singular I stop Plural we stop you stop you stop he/she/it stops they stop

3 The changes after he/she/it:

For most verbs, we add -s:

But for verbs ending in -o, -ch, -sh, -ss and -x, we add e before -s:

I go
$$\rightarrow$$
 it goes I wash \rightarrow she washes you fix \rightarrow she fixes they miss \rightarrow he misses we watch \rightarrow he watches

And for verbs ending in a consonant (b, c, d, etc.) + y, we change the y to ie, and then add -s:

For the verb have, we say 'he/she/it has...':

These spelling rules work for nouns too:

$$potato \rightarrow potatoes$$
 $box \rightarrow boxes$
 $match \rightarrow matches$
 $baby \rightarrow babies$

- 4 We use the **present simple** to talk about ourselves, where we live, and where we work, to talk about our hobbies and timetables, to talk about things we don't like and to talk about things we don't know.
 - → For information on present simple negative, see p. 8.

Grammar in action

We use the **present simple** to talk about facts. Here, we're talking about where we live, and where we work:

My parents live in Scotland.

My parents live in Scotland.
My mum comes from Australia.
My dad works for an American
company.



We use the **present simple** to talk about our hobbies, timetables, and things we do regularly:

I sometimes play football on Sunday mornings. They never go on holiday. Megan comes to a French class with me on Mondays.

Month Production

We often put a frequency adverb (usually, sometimes, never, etc.) before the verb, or we give a time, day or period (at 9.30, in the morning, on Tuesdays, at the weekend, in the summer, etc.) after the verb.

→ For information on frequency adverbs, see p. 16.

A Talking about where we live and where we work

Joe and his friends share a big house in London. Jean-Paul is going to stay with them. Add the correct form of the verbs in brackets to this letter.

Hí Jean-Paul!	
Here's some information about our house. Sally and I live (live) on the first floor. Sally works (work) for a travel company and I (drive) a taxi. Paul (have) a room on our floor, too. He (fix) cars. Mario (live) on the second floor with his wife, Lucia. They form Italy. Lucia (speak) a little French, I think. They both (make) great pasta! Finally, Greg (sleep) on the top floor. He (teach) maths in a local school.	
See you soon!	
Joe	

Things we do regularly

(i) Here is an interview with Anisha Chetty, the managing director of the supermarket company, Bisco's. Add the correct verb, changing the form if necessary.

INTERVIEWER When do you start your day? My husband sleeps o (sleep/stay) until 8 a.m., but I always get o **ANISHA** (start/get) up at 6.30 a.m. I usually [1] (leave/go) to the gym first. Then I _____2 (have/sit) breakfast at the London office at 7.30 a.m. I3 (start/stop) work at 8 a.m. INTERVIEWER Wow! That's early. Are you the first person to arrive at the office? No, actually. My Personal Assistant, Philip, ______4 (get/arrive) at

ANISHA children from school.

INTERVIEWER Do you have meetings all day long?

No, not all day. On Wednesdays I 6 (fly/catch) to Glasgow to visit the Scottish manager, Derek. He 7 (give/make) me information ANISHA every week on the eleven Bisco supermarkets in Scotland.

INTERVIEWER Do you have any time to relax?

ANISHA And I (try/come) to get home early on Friday afternoons.

(ii) Check your answers to (i), and then add the verb in the correct form to these sentences about Anisha.

O She always gets up at 6.30 a.m.

1 She usually to the gym first.

2 Then she _____ breakfast at the London office.

3 She work at 8 a.m.

4 On Wednesdays she ______to Glasgow.

5 Sheyoga on Tuesday afternoons.

6 And she to get home early on Friday afternoons.

Facts and regular activities

Gill is showing a family photo to her friend. Cross out the wrong verb forms in the sentences in the first half (1-4), and add them to the sentences in the second half (5-8).

- 0 My mother make/makes TV programmes.
- 1 My father work/works in a travel agency.
- 2 My parents spends/spend two months every year in California.
- 3 My grandfather speaks/speak five languages.
- 4 He plays/play jazz piano at the weekends.
- 5 My brothers for a South American bank.
- 6 They both _____Spanish as well as English.
- 0 They make a lot of money.
- 7 My older brother, Matt, all his money on cars.
- 8 They both tennis together on Sundays.



5 Some examples of the present simple negative:

I don't like music in shops.

She doesn't eat meat.

We do not know the answer.

This train does not stop at York.

6 We make the negative form by using do not/don't or does not/doesn't before the infinitive:

NEGATIV	'E	
	Full form	Short form
Singular	I do not stop you do not stop he/she/it does not stop	I don't stop you don't stop he/she/it doesn't stop
Plural	we do not stop you do not stop they do not stop	we don't stop you don't stop they don't stop

- 1 Note that we don't add -s after he/she/it in the negative form: He doesn't stops.
- 2 In speech and informal writing, we usually use short forms.

Grammar in action

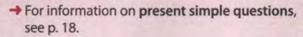
B We use the present simple to talk about things we like or don't like: I love sunny days! I like most classical music. Mike doesn't like golf.

We want an ice cream! My dad hates motorbikes.

I don't want another book for my birthday!

4 We use the present simple to talk about things we

I understand a few words in French.





Sightseeing in Edinburgh

Bob and Jess and their kids, Sam and Mel, are visiting Edinburgh. Add the correct verb in the correct form.

ВОВ		t think/not know) where we are, Jess. Mel thinks Princes Street - the street with all the shops - but I'm not sure.	
SAM		(hate/love) shops! They're boring. I want to go to the zoo.	
JESS		(not think/not understand) the zoo is in the city centre, Sam. 3 (not hate/not like) zoos anyway.	
ВОВ	Listen. I'm going to ask this man where we are. Excuse me, sir, what is the name of this street?		
JESS	Bob! He	4 (not understand/not think) you. I don't think he's British.	
BOB	OK. Sorry, sir. Look, Jess. What's that?		
JESS	15	(not know/not understand), Bob.	
MEL	But Iabout it at school.	(think/know) what it is! It's the Scott Monument. I read	
ВОВ	Thanks, Mel. This is Princes Street, then. So now I know the way to the Tourist Information Office.		
JESS	Great! We can ask for directions to the National Gallery of Scotland. I		
SAM	Well, I		
JESS		at the café in the National Gallery, Sam. We may see some tigers there. That will be nice, won't it?	