

The verb "to be"



A: Are you from England?  
B: No, we aren't. We're from China.



He's Tom and she's Helen.  
They are friends.

| Affirmative |            | Negative     |             | Interrogative |
|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Long form   | Short form | Long form    | Short form  |               |
| I am        | I'm        | I am not     | I'm not     | Am I?         |
| You are     | You're     | You are not  | You aren't  | Are you?      |
| He is       | He's       | He is not    | He isn't    | Is he?        |
| She is      | She's      | She is not   | She isn't   | Is she?       |
| It is       | It's       | It is not    | It isn't    | Is it?        |
| We are      | We're      | We are not   | We aren't   | Are we?       |
| You are     | You're     | You are not  | You aren't  | Are you?      |
| They are    | They're    | They are not | They aren't | Are they?     |



**3** Look at the pictures and fill in he/she/it is or they are.

- 1 ...He is... a postman.
- 2 ..... doctors.
- 3 ..... a cat.
- 4 ..... a hairdresser.
- 5 ..... brushes.
- 6 ..... a baker.
- 7 ..... a tennis ball.
- 8 ..... a singer.

**4** First answer the following questions about yourself. Then, in pairs, act out the dialogue with the books closed.

- A: Who are you? B: .....
- A: Where are you from? B: .....  
from .....
- A: How old are you? B: .....

# Subject Pronouns/The Verb "To Be"

**5** Fill in the gaps as in the example.

| Long form                        | Short form            |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 I ... <i>am</i> ... a student. | I ..'m... a student.  |
| 2 We ..... from Spain.           | We ..... from Spain.  |
| 3 He ..... not a doctor.         | He ..... a doctor.    |
| 4 You ..... a singer.            | You ..... a singer.   |
| 5 She ..... an actress.          | She ..... an actress. |
| 6 It ..... a watch.              | It ..... a watch.     |
| 7 They ..... not painters.       | They ..... painters.  |
| 8 I ..... not tall.              | I ..... tall.         |

| Singular     | Plural     |
|--------------|------------|
| I am         | → We are   |
| You are      | → You are  |
| He/She/It is | → They are |

**6** Write the plural.

- |                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 She is a girl.        | ... <i>They are girls</i> ... |
| 2 He is a teacher.      | .....                         |
| 3 It is a deer.         | .....                         |
| 4 I am a boy.           | .....                         |
| 5 She is a policewoman. | .....                         |
| 6 It is a giraffe.      | .....                         |
| 7 I am a baker.         | .....                         |
| 8 He is a man.          | .....                         |
| 9 You are a child.      | .....                         |
| 10 It is a box.         | .....                         |

**7** Write questions and answers as in the example.



- 1 ...*Are they* singers?  
 ...*No, they aren't*...  
 ...*They're* dancers.



- 2 ..... a waiter?  
 .....  
 .....



- 3 ..... apples?  
 .....  
 ..... tomatoes.



- 4 ..... a bear?  
 .....  
 ..... a bird.



- 5 ..... a teacher?  
 .....  
 ..... a photographer.



- 6 ..... flowers?  
 .....  
 .....

## Short Answers

Short answers are answers to questions which begin with the verb form *is/are*. In short answers we do not repeat the whole question. We only use *Yes* or *No*, the subject pronoun and the verb form *is (isn't) / are (aren't)*.

e.g. *Are you British?* *No, I'm not.*

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Are you ...?      | Yes, I am / we are.<br>No, I'm not / we aren't. |
| Is he/she/it ...? | Yes, he/she/it is.<br>No, he/she/it isn't.      |
| Are they ...?     | Yes, they are.<br>No, they aren't.              |

Subject Pronouns/The Verb "To Be"

**8** (i) Look at the table and answer the questions.

|      |         |    |         |
|------|---------|----|---------|
| Paul | England | 34 | writer  |
| Rosa | Italy   | 30 | actress |
| Chin | China   | 25 | teacher |
| Mei  | China   | 25 | teacher |

Where **is** Paul/Rosa from?  
How old **is** he/she?  
What **is** his/her job?

Where **are** Chin and Mei from?  
How old **are** they?  
What **are** their jobs?

(ii) Now, fill in *is/Isn't, are/aren't*.

- Paul *is* from England. He ..... from China. He ..... 34 years old. He ..... a writer.
  - Rosa ..... from Italy. She ..... 15 years old. She ..... 30 years old. She ..... an actress. She ..... a writer.
  - Chin and Mei ..... from China. They ..... from Italy. They ..... 25 years old. They ..... teachers.
- Now, write about yourself: I .....



**9** Correct the mistakes.

- Sarah and I am sisters.
- Ben and Tim is at school.
- Horses and cows is animals.
- England are a country.
- Tim are from America.

**10** Look at the pictures and fill in *is/isn't, are/aren't* and the correct personal pronoun *he, she, it* or *they*.



- Alice **is** a teacher. **Is** she old?  
No, **she isn't**. She **is** young.



- Greg and Bob ..... naval officers. .... at home now?  
No, ..... at work.



- George ..... a businessman. .... poor?  
No, ..... rich.



- This ..... a musical instrument. .... a trumpet?  
No, ..... a saxophone.

**11**

Look at the pictures and write questions and answers as in the examples.



- (new/old)  
..Is it new?.....  
..No, it isn't new.  
..It is old.....

- (weak/strong)  
.....  
.....

- (ugly/beautiful)  
.....  
.....

- (slow/fast)  
.....  
.....

- (short/tall)  
.....  
.....

- (sad/happy)  
.....  
.....

# Subject Pronouns/The Verb "To Be"

## ORAL Activity

The teacher chooses a leader. The leader chooses a job from the pictures and writes it on a piece of paper. The other students ask questions to find out what he/she is. The student who guesses correctly becomes the leader.

e.g. (The leader chooses "porter")

S1: *Are you a doctor?* Leader: *No, I'm not.*  
 S2: *Are you a teacher?* Leader: *No, I'm not.*  
 S3: *Are you a porter?* Leader: *Yes, I am.*



policeman



doctor



nurse



teacher



porter



waitress



painter



postman



singer



cook



athlete



dancer

## WRITING Activity

Read the information about the two people below. Then, fill in the missing words in the short texts.



**Name:** Pierre  
**Surname:** Delon  
**Age:** 17  
**Job:** Student, St Martin's College  
**Nationality:** French



**Name:** Nora  
**Surname:** Milton  
**Age:** 49  
**Job:** Secretary, Star TV Channel  
**Nationality:** Canadian

..... Pi re Delon. He is 17. He is a .....  
 at St Martin's College. He is .....

..... Nora Milton. She is ..... She is a  
 secretary at Star TV ..... She .....  
 Canadian.

Now complete the information about yourself.



**Name:**  
**Surname:**  
**Age:**  
**Job:**  
**Nationality:**

Now write about yourself:

I am .....  
 .....  
 .....