

UNIT 1 *Be* present simple (*I am, I'm not, Are you... ?*)

A

In the present simple, the verb **be** has three forms: **am, is, are**.

Affirmative

Full form

I am
You are
He / She / It is
We / You / They are

Short form

I'm
You're
He's / She's / It's
We're / You're / They're

In spoken language and in informal written language, the form most used is the **short form**. You can use it when the subject is a pronoun, a singular noun or a proper noun.

I'm sorry I'm late.

Simon's away from school today, He's ill.

B

Negative

Full form

I am not
You are not
He / She / It is not
We / You / They are not

Short form

I'm not
You aren't
He / She / It isn't
We / You / They aren't

Full negative form: Subject (noun or pronoun) + **am / is / are + not**

We are not ready yet!

The more common short form is shown in the box. To give particular emphasis to the negation, you can use the forms **You're not, He's not, She's not, It's not, We're not, You're not, They're not**.

C

Interrogative

Am I...?
Are you...?
Is he / she / it...?
Are we / you / they...?

Negative questions

Am I not...? / Aren't I...?
Aren't you...?
Isn't he / she / it...?
Aren't we / you / they...?

Questions are formed by swapping the positions of the subject and the verb:

Am / Is / Are + subject (noun or pronoun)

Is your brother at college? Are the students nice?

D

Short answers are formed with:

Yes, / No, + subject pronoun + verb **be** (affirmative or negative)

The short form is never used in short affirmative answers.

'Aren't you tired?' 'Yes, I am.' (not: ~~Yes, I'm~~)

'Are your parents at work?' 'No, they aren't.'

E

Wh- questions are formed with: Question word + **am / is / are** + subject (noun or pronoun)

What's your name? When's your birthday?

Where are you from? (also possible: *Where're ...*)

Which is your car? (not possible: ~~Which's ...~~)

Student's notes
