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'**Be**' is a very common verb in English. We use it to talk about many things, such as name, age, height, weight, time, place, weather, jobs, state, etc.



via https://www.slideshare.net/LizethMancera/are-you-happy-today

## **Negative forms of 'be' in Present Simple**

To make negative sentences using be in the Present Simple, we just add '**not**' after the verb 'be'.

Singular Plural

I am not ('m not) We are not (aren't) You are not (aren't) You are not (aren't) He/she/is not (isn't) They are not (aren't)

The verb 'be' takes the same form in positive and negative sentences. The only difference is that we add 'not'.

- I'm not a pupil, I'm a student.
- They are not at home.
- She **isn't** in London, she's in Paris.
- We aren't happy about this.

Note: "Is not" and "are not" can be contracted in two ways. The subject and verb can be contracted, or the verb and 'not'.

- You are not a doctor. (full form)
- You're not a doctor.
- You aren't a doctor.
- *She is not here right now.* (full form)
- She isn't here right now.
- She's not here right now.



### There isn't/there aren't

When we want to make a negative impersonal statement with 'there is' or 'there are', we can add '**not**' or '**no**' depending on the noun that follows.

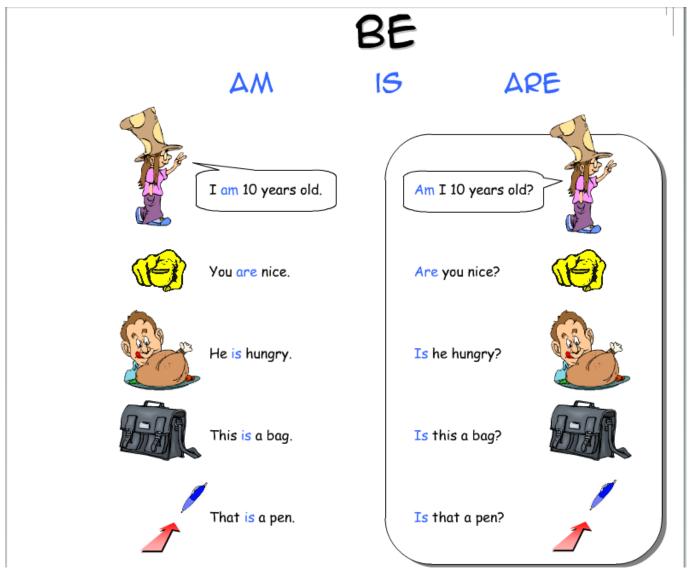
- There is no money in your wallet.
- There aren't any chairs at the table.
- There isn't enough food for everyone.

# Questions with 'be' in Present Simple

To make questions with 'be' in the Present Simple, we put the verb before the subject and add a question mark at the end.

Compare positive statements and questions:





via http://enriquetrujilloingles.blogspot.com/2014/05/verb-be-questions.html

### Yes/No questions

To create a question that will be answered with a 'yes' or 'no', put 'Am'/'Is'/'Are' (or 'Isn't'/'Aren't' for a negative question) + before the subject.

- Are you in the office? -No, I'm not. I'm still at home.
- **Is** she alone in New York City? No, she isn't. She is with her boyfriend.
- *Oh,* **are** they happy to be there together?

Note: In short positive answers to the questions with the verb 'be' we use only full forms of



'am/is/are'. In short negative answers we can also use short forms of 'am/is/are'.

### **Special questions**

Special questions (also known as wh-questions) are questions that require more information in their answers. They are made using <u>wh-words</u> such as *what, where, when, why, which, who, how, how many, how much*.

To make a special question, use the same word order as with yes-no questions but put a whword before the verb 'be'. The structure is:

#### wh- word + am/is/are + the rest of the sentence

- Where is your brother?
- **How are** you today?
- Why are you here?

The verb be may be contracted:

- What's your hobby?
- **Why's** your toy on the floor?

However, we usually do not contract a question word and the 'are' form of be:

- Where are you?
- Where're you? (not used in most situations)
- When are we leaving?
- When're we leaving? (not used in most situations)

Watch this video from Kyle Rolofson to see how the verb 'be' is used in questions and negative statements:

See also:

The Verb 'Be' in Present Simple: Statements