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

Be tells us that something exists or happens. It can also show the nature and quality of things.



via <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJ8bzbhdehg>

## Forms of the verb 'be' in Present Simple

Be in the Present Simple Tense has the following forms:

Singular	Plural
<i>I am (I'm)</i>	<i>We are (we're)</i>
<i>You are (you're)</i>	<i>You are (you're)</i>
<i>He/she/it is (it's)</i>	<i>They are (they're)</i>

\*The contracted forms are written in brackets. They are used in more informal situations.

- Jack **is** a student. (he)
- His sister **is** a manager. (she)
- Jack **is** 20 and Tom **is** 26.
- They **are** from London.
- You **are** a nice person. (you singular)
- Both guys **are** dark-haired, and their eyes are blue. (they)
- The weather **is** great today. (it)
- We **are** happy to be here.
- You **are** all very talented people. (you plural)

Note: In the plural, the verb 'be' only has one form - '**are**'.

- We **are** so happy together.
- Guys, you **are** so funny.
- They'**re** from London.

## When to use the verb 'be'

1. We use the verb 'be' before [nouns](#):

- I'**m** a firefighter.
- He'**s** a photographer.

2. We use the verb 'be' before [adjectives](#):

- I'**m** busy.
- The shark **is** hungry.

3. We use the verb 'be' before [prepositional phrases](#):

- We **are** from Japan.
- The ball **is** under the bed.

## There is/there are

We use the verb 'be' impersonally to state the existence of something. When we use be in this way, the impersonal subject is 'there'.

We use 'there is' for singular statements and 'there are' for plural statements. We can also use this impersonal phrase in interrogative sentences. When we use it in interrogatives, the word order is reversed.

- **There is** one person at the table.
- **There are** a lot of people here.
- **Is there** a good restaurant nearby?
- **Are there** many people there?

Note: In everyday speech we normally use the short forms of 'be'.

- *I'm 20 years old.*
- *It's a beautiful day.*
- *They're football fans.*

## 'Be' as an auxiliary verb

The verb 'be' can be used as the [main](#) or as an [auxiliary](#) verb.

As an auxiliary verb, the verb 'be' can be used to form:

### 1) [continuous](#) tense

- *I **am** reading a book.*
- *They **are** talking too loudly.*

### 2) [passive voice](#)

- *The rooms **are** cleaned every day.*
- *The car **is** repaired by Tom.*

Here's a useful video from Oxford English Online showing different usages of the verb 'be':