**The Verb *To Be***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Infinitive | to be |
| Present | am, is, are |
| Past | was, were |
| Present Participle | being |
| Past Participle | been |
| Present Subjunctive | be |
| Past Subjunctive | were |
| Imperative | be |

The verb **to be** is the most irregular verb in the English language. It is normally a linking verb showing existence or the condition of the subject. It can also be used as an auxiliary verb when forming the passive voice.

The forms of the verb **to be** in English are as follows:

**BE Verb Introduction - Simple Present Tense**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **FORM** | **SUBJECT** | **BE VERB** | **Contraction** | **EXAMPLE** |
| **affirmative** **sentences** **( + )** | 1st person | I | am | I'm | I'm here. |
| 2nd person | you | are | you're | You're busy. |
| 3rd person | he | is | he's | He's a friend. |
| 3rd person | she | is | she's | She's a doctor. |
| 3rd person | it | is | it's | It's cold today. |
| 1st person pl. | we | are | we're | We're hungry. |
| 2nd person pl. | you | are | you're | You're beautiful. |
| 3rd person pl. | they | are | they're | They're asleep. |
|  | | | | | |
|  | **SUBJECT** | **BE VERB** | **Contraction** | **EXAMPLE** | |
| **negative** **sentences** **( - )** | I | am not | I'm not | I'm not thirsty. | |
| you | are not | you aren't  you're not | You aren't here.  You're not a cat! | |
| he | is not | he isn't  he's not | He isn't there.  He's not at home. | |
| she | is not | she isn't  she's not | She isn't a mother.  She's not an actress. | |
| it | is not | it isn't  it's not | It isn't warm today.  It's not too hot today. | |
| we | are not | we aren't  we're not | We aren't asleep.  We're not sleepy. | |
| you | are not | you aren't  you're not | You aren't tired. You're not at work. | |
| they | are not | they aren't  they're not | They aren't here. They're not at work. | |
|  | | | | | |
|  | **BE VERB  &  SUBJECT** | | | **(+) Short Answer** | **(-) Short Answer** |
| **questions** **( ? )** | Am I correct? | | | Yes, I am. | No, I'm not. |
| Are you tired? | | | Yes, you are. | No, you aren't. No, you're not. |
| Is he asleep? | | | Yes, he is. | No, he isn't.  No, he's not. |
| Is she here? | | | Yes, she is. | No, she isn't.  No, she's not. |
| Is it warm? | | | Yes, it is. | No, it isn't.  No, it's not. |
| Are we students? | | | Yes, we are. | No, we aren't.  No, we're not. |
| Are you thirsty? | | | Yes, you are. | No, you aren't.  No, you're not. |
| Are they here? | | | Yes, they are. | No, they aren't.  No, they're not |