**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 |