PRACTICAL LESSON

Be - Present Simple

Lesson category: Mësimet në gjuhë angleze

> Master am, is and are for identity, age, feelings, description and location. Covers positive, negative and question forms, short answers, contractions, there is / there are, and how be differs from do.

Be – Present Simple (am, is, are)

Be is the most important verb in English and also the most irregular one. Almost every other verb keeps the same form for nearly every subject, but **be** has three different present forms: **am**, **is** and **are**. You need it to say who you are, how you feel, where you are and what things are like, so it is usually the first verb learners meet — and the one they keep coming back to.

Learning objectives

- Choose correctly between **am**, **is** and **are** for every subject.
- Build positive sentences, negative sentences and questions with **be**.
- Give natural short answers such as *Yes, I am* and *No, she isn't*.
- Use contractions the way fluent speakers do.
- Use **there is** and **there are** to say what exists.
- Explain why **be** never needs **do** or **does**.

Meaning and usage

Use	Example	Notes
Identity and names	*I **am** Maria. This **is** my brother.*	Saying who someone is
Jobs	*She **is** a nurse.*	English needs *a* or *an* before the job
Nationality and origin	*They **are** from Albania.*	Often with *from*
Age	*He **is** eighteen (years old).*	Never *He has eighteen years*
Description	*The film **is** interesting.*	With adjectives
Feelings and states	*We **are** tired. I **am** hungry.*	Physical and emotional states
Location	*The keys **are** on the table.*	With prepositions of place
Time and date	*It **is** half past six. Today **is** Monday.*	Impersonal *it*
Weather	*It **is** cold today.*	Impersonal *it*
Price and measurement	*The tickets **are** ten euros.*	—

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The affirmative form

Subject	Full form	Contraction	Example
I	am	I'm	*I'm a student.*
you	are	you're	*You're right.*
he	is	he's	*He's at home.*
she	is	she's	*She's my teacher.*
it	is	it's	*It's very hot.*
we	are	we're	*We're ready.*
they	are	they're	*They're from Tirana.*

The pattern is simple: **I** always takes *am*; **he, she, it** take *is*; **you, we, they** take *are*. A singular noun behaves like *he/she/it* (*My sister **is** …*) and a plural noun behaves like *they* (*My parents **are** …*).

The negative form

Make the negative by adding **not** after the verb. There is no *do* and no *don't*.

Subject	Full form	Contraction 1	Contraction 2
I	am not	I'm not	—
you	are not	you're not	you aren't
he / she / it	is not	he's not	he isn't
we	are not	we're not	we aren't
they	are not	they're not	they aren't

Note the gap in the table: there is **no contraction "amn't"** in standard English. For the first person you say *I'm not*.

Questions

To make a question, put **be** in front of the subject. This is called inversion.

Statement	Yes/No question	Wh- question
You are ready.	***Are** you ready?*	*Why **are** you ready?*
She is a doctor.	***Is** she a doctor?*	*What **is** she?*
They are at school.	***Are** they at school?*	*Where **are** they?*
It is cold.	***Is** it cold?*	*How cold **is** it?*

Short answers

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English rarely answers with a bare *Yes* or *No*; it repeats the auxiliary. The positive short answer is **never contracted**.

Question	Positive	Negative
Are you tired?	Yes, I am. *(not **Yes, I'm**)*	No, I'm not.
Is he your brother?	Yes, he is.	No, he isn't.
Is it far?	Yes, it is.	No, it isn't.
Are they students?	Yes, they are.	No, they aren't.

There is and there are

Use **there is / there are** to say that something exists or is present. The verb agrees with the noun that follows it, not with *there*.

Form	Used with	Example
There is (There's)	singular and uncountable nouns	***There's** a book on the desk. **There's** some milk in the fridge.*
There are	plural nouns	***There are** twenty students in the class.*
There isn't / There aren't	negatives	***There isn't** any bread. **There aren't** any chairs.*
Is there ...? / Are there ...?	questions	***Is there** a bank near here? **Are there** any questions?*

In a list, the verb usually agrees with the *first* item: *There **is** a table and four chairs.*

Be or do? The difference that matters most

Be is its own auxiliary. It forms questions and negatives by itself and never borrows *do*. Other main verbs cannot do this, so they need *do* or *does*.

	With be	With another verb
Positive	She **is** happy.	She **works** here.
Negative	She **isn't** happy.	She **doesn't work** here.
Question	**Is** she happy?	**Does** she work here?
Short answer	Yes, she **is**.	Yes, she **does**.

Signal words and time expressions

Because **be** describes states rather than actions, it often appears with *now*, *today*, *at the moment*, *this week*, *always*, *usually* and *never*. Adverbs of frequency go **after** be, not before it: *She **is always** late.* Compare this with other verbs, where the adverb goes before: *She **always arrives** late.*

Formal and informal usage

- **Speaking and informal writing:** contractions are normal and expected. *I'm not sure. He's late.*

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- **Formal writing:** prefer full forms. *The results **are not** conclusive.*
- **Choice of negative:** *he isn't* and *he's not* are both correct. *He's not* slightly emphasises the negative.
- **Aren't I?** is the accepted question tag for the first person: *I'm right, **aren't I**?*

Common mistakes

Mistake	Correct	Why
I have 20 years.	**I am 20 (years old).**	English uses *be* for age
Do you are ready?	**Are you ready?**	*be* never takes *do*
She no is here.	**She isn't here.**	*not* comes after *be*
Yes, I'm.	**Yes, I am.**	positive short answers are not contracted
I am agree.	**I agree.**	*agree* is a full verb, not an adjective
There is many people.	**There are many people.**	the verb agrees with the plural noun
He is teacher.	**He is a teacher.**	jobs need an article
I amn't ready.	**I'm not ready.**	*amn't* does not exist

Learning tips

1. Memorise the three groups as a rhythm: *I am — he/she/it is — you/we/they are*. Say it aloud until it needs no thought.
2. Whenever you meet a new subject, ask yourself: is it one thing or more than one? That decides *is* or *are*.
3. Practise short answers out loud. Learners understand them long before they produce them naturally.
4. When you feel tempted to write *do* with an adjective, stop — you almost certainly need *be*.

Summary checklist

- Have I used **am** with *I*, **is** with singular, **are** with plural?
- Did I put **not** after *be*, without adding *do*?
- Did I invert the subject and verb to make the question?
- Is my positive short answer uncontracted?
- Does **there is / there are** agree with the noun after it?
- Did I use **be** — not *have* — for age?

Shpjegim në gjuhën shqipe

Rregulli i anglishtes, i shpjeguar në shqip

Folja **be** është folja më e parregullt e anglishtes. Në kohën e tashme ajo ka **tri forma**: *am* përdoret vetëm me *I*; *is* me *he, she, it* dhe me çdo emër në njëjës; *are* me *you, we, they* dhe me çdo emër në shumës.

Mohimi ndërtohet duke shtuar *not* **pas** foljes, kurrë me *do*: *She is **not** here*. Format e shkurtuara janë *isn't* dhe *aren't*; për vetën e parë ekziston vetëm *I'm not*, sepse forma *amn't* nuk përdoret në anglishten standarde.

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Pyetja ndërtohet duke e vendosur foljen **para kryefjalës**: *Are you ready?* Kjo quhet përmbysje dhe është e detyrueshme. Përgjigjja e shkurtër e përsërit foljen: *Yes, I am. / No, she isn't.* Vini re se përgjigjja pohuese **nuk shkurtohet kurrë**: thuhet *Yes, I am*, jo *Yes, I'm*.

Folja **be** përdoret për identitetin, profesionin, kombësinë, moshën, përshkrimin, ndjenjat, vendndodhjen, kohën, motin dhe çmimin. Ajo është njëkohësisht folje e mëvetësishme dhe folje ndihmëse, prandaj nuk ka nevojë kurrë për *do*.

Ekuivalenti në gjuhën shqipe

Folja angleze **be** i përgjigjet foljes shqipe **jam**. Që të dyja janë të parregullta dhe që të dyja ndryshojnë sipas vetës, prandaj sistemi nuk është i huaj për folësit e shqipes. Dallimi kryesor është se anglishtja ka vetëm tri forma (*am, is, are*), kurse shqipja ka gjashtë.

Ekuivalenti i formave

Anglisht	Shqip	Shembull
I am	unë jam	*I am a student.* — Unë jam student.
you are	ti je	*You are right.* — Ti ke të drejtë.
he / she / it is	ai / ajo është	*She is a teacher.* — Ajo është mësuese.
we are	ne jemi	*We are ready.* — Ne jemi gati.
you are	ju jeni	*You are late.* — Ju jeni vonë.
they are	ata / ato janë	*They are at home.* — Ata janë në shtëpi.

There is dhe there are

Kujdes: kjo strukturë nuk përkthehet fjalë për fjalë. Anglishtja përdor foljen *be*, kurse shqipja përdor foljen **ka** në formë të pavetore.

Anglisht	Shqip
There is a book on the table.	Mbi tavolinë **ka** një libër.
There are twenty students.	**Ka** njëzet studentë.
There isn't any bread.	**Nuk ka** bukë.
Is there a bank near here?	A **ka** një bankë këtu afër?

Ku ndryshojnë dy gjuhët

- **Kryefjala.** Anglishtja e kërkon gjithmonë përemrin; shqipja e heq lirisht. *I am tired* = **Jam i lodhur**, pa *unë*.
- **Mosha.** Këtu të dyja gjuhët përputhen: *I am twenty* = **Jam njëzet vjeç**. Mos përdorni *have*.
- **Gjendjet fizike.** Anglishtja përdor mbiemër me *be*: *I am hungry*. Shqipja pranon **Jam i uritur** ose **Kam uri**.
- **Profesioni.** Anglishtja kërkon nyjën *a*: *She is **a** nurse*. Shqipja nuk e ka: **Ajo është infermiere.**
- **Mohimi.** Anglishtja e vendos *not* pas foljes; shqipja e vendos **nuk** para saj: *She is not here* = **Ajo nuk është këtu.**

Gabime të zakonshme të folësve të shqipes

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Gabimi	E saktë	Pse
I have 20 years.	**I am 20 years old.**	ndikim i drejtpërdrejtë nga gjuhë të tjera; shqipja gjithashtu thotë *jam*
Am student.	**I am a student.**	anglishtja nuk e heq kryefjalën, si shqipja
She is teacher.	**She is a teacher.**	shqipja nuk ka nyjë këtu, anglishtja po
Do you are ready?	**Are you ready?**	*be* nuk merr kurrë *do*
It has a book on the table.	**There is a book on the table.**	përkthim i drejtpërdrejtë i *ka*
I am agree.	**I agree.**	*agree* është folje, jo mbiemër

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