

## Verbs - be

We use the verb **Be** for **personal information**. Things about you!

Examples are: your name, your job, your nationality and your feelings.

Look at Sadat.



**I am** Sadat. **I am** Iranian, but now **I live** in Germany.

**I am** a graphic designer. **I work** in a magazine in Frankfurt.

His name **is** Sadat.

Name **is** personal information.

He **is** a graphic designer.

Graphic designer **is** a job or profession.

This **is** more personal information.

We also use the verb **Be** for information about **things**.

This **is** a cup of coffee.

A cup **is** a **thing** and coffee **is** a **thing** inside the cup.

The cup **is** white. Information about the cup.

The coffee **is** hot. Information about the coffee.


So, we use the verb **Be** for information about people and things.



## Verbs - be




Here is the verb table for **Be**.

These are the **long** forms.

This is for positive sentences.  E.g. **I am** twenty years old and **I'm** single.



Negative sentences.  **I am not** a doctor and **I'm not** a teacher.

And questions.  **Are you** Greek or **are you** Egyptian?

		
<b>I am</b> Turkish	<b>I am not</b> Russian	<b>Am I</b> happy?
<b>You are</b> British	<b>You are not</b> French	<b>Are you</b> hungry?
<b>He is</b> very nice	<b>He is not</b> a taxi driver	<b>Is he</b> your husband?
<b>She is</b> married	<b>She is not</b> rich	<b>Is she</b> tall?
<b>It is</b> a computer disk	<b>It is not</b> very expensive	<b>Is it</b> plastic?
<b>We are</b> both Russian	<b>We are not</b> related	<b>Are we</b> late?
<b>They are</b> nice children	<b>They are not</b> doctors	<b>Are they</b> friends?

Check all new words in your dictionary!

There are the **short** forms.

	
<b>I'm</b> Jewish	<b>I'm not</b> his cousin
<b>You're</b> beautiful	<b>You're not / You aren't</b> French
<b>He's</b> a boring man	<b>He's not / He isn't</b> my father
<b>She's</b> lazy	<b>She's not / She isn't</b> a good student
<b>It's</b> a very difficult exam	<b>It's not / It isn't</b> cold tonight
<b>We're</b> both hungry	<b>We're not / We aren't</b> colleagues
<b>They are</b> delicious potatoes	<b>They're not / They aren't</b> immigrants

We use the **long** form for writing and speaking and the **short** form for speaking only.

There **are** two short forms for negatives E.g. **You're not / You aren't**  
But for **I am** there is only one! - **I'm**

## Verbs - be

Let's look at more examples.



This **is** Katya. She **is** forty years old and she's Russian.

She lives with her son Vasya in a flat.

Katya **is** unemployed. She **does not** work.

She **is** divorced, but she **is** a very happy person.

We have information about Katya.

Her **age**: She **is** forty years old

Her **nationality**: She **is** Russian

Her **job/no job**: She **is** unemployed

Her **marital status**: She **is** divorced

Her **feelings**: She **is** a very happy person

We use the verb **Be** for personal information and feelings.

We use the **present simple** to talk about **routine**.

**Routine** means things we **do** every day or **do** all the time.

E.g. I speak French at home - I speak French all the time at home.

Another example is eat. We eat every day!

What does Katya **do** all the time?

Write a sentence below.

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## Verbs - be

Look at this story. **Is** she a happy person?

My name **is** Maria Gonzalez.

I **'m** twenty-three years old and I **'m** Puerto Rican.

Tonight, I **'m** a little bit angry because the restaurant **is** extremely busy and I **am** very tired.

All the customers **are** rich and they **are** not very patient.

I **'m** not only a waitress. I **am** also a student at the university here in Manchester.

In Puerto Rico, I **was** an accountant, but now I **'m** just a waitress in this horrible place!

For past time, we use **was** and **were**.

**Was** for one person.  
We also use **was** with names.

**Were** for one or more people.  
We use **were** with **You** also.

Examples.

I / he /she / Alfredo / it **was**

You / we / they / my parents **were**

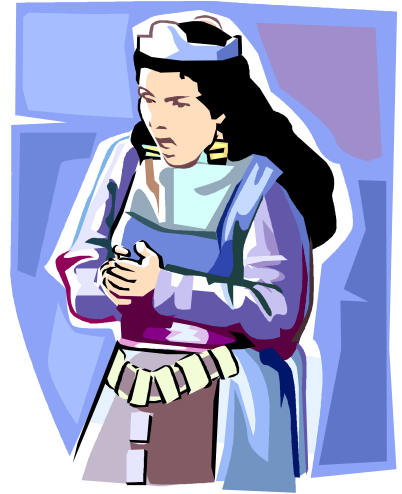
Read about Maria again.

What **was** her job in Puerto Rico?

Write a full sentence.

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## Verbs - be

Next, practice the verb **Be**.

Look at the short stories then write your story.  
Use positive and negative sentences.

### Personal information

#### Name

Q. What **is** your name?

A. My name **is** Sadat.

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#### Age

Q. How old **are** you?

A. I **am** fifty-seven years old.

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#### Religion

Q. What **is** your religion?

A. I **am** a Muslim.

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#### Nationality and place of origin

Q. What **is** your nationality?

A. We **are** Turkish.

Q. Where **are** you from?

A. I **am** from Ankara, but my wife **is** from Istanbul.

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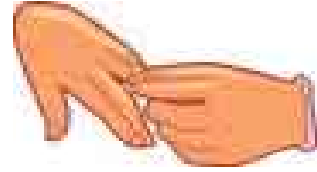
## Verbs - be

### Status (marital)

Q. **Are** you married or single?

A. I **am** single. I was married, but now I **am** divorced.

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### Status (job)

Q. What **is** your position in your company?

A. I **am** the manager.

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### Status (social)

Q. **Is** that guy over there poor?

A. I think he's very poor because he **is** homeless.

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### Job, occupation or profession

Q. What **is** your job?

A. I **am** an estate agent. It **is** my business.

I **am** self-employed.

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## Verbs - be

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### Sex

Q. **Is** your teacher male or female?

A. Male. His name **is** Paul Corrigan.

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### Life and death

Q. **Are** your parents alive?

A. My mother **is**, but my father's dead. He **died** last year.

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### Describing people (weight)

Q. What **is** your weight?

A. I **am** sixty-two kilograms.

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### Describing people (height)

Q. How tall **are** your children?

A. Tony **is** one metre fifty-five, but Ben **is** over two metres tall.

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## Verbs - be

### Appearance

Q. What **does** Antonia look like?

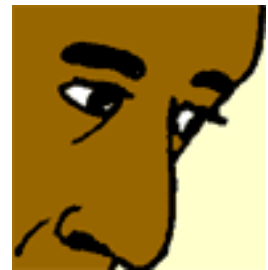
A. She **is** tall with long dark hair. She's very attractive!



### Personality

Q. So, tell me. What **is** your friend Abdurahim like?

A. He's a really nice guy, but he's shy and bit serious.



### Behaviour (things people do)

Q. You **are** a busy woman. What **is** your husband like?

A. He **is** very lazy. He does nothing, but sit watching TV.



### Behaviour (feelings)

Q. Hello Katya! How **are** you today?

A. Me! Great! I'm so happy that my exams are finished.





## Verbs - be

### Location or place (people)

Q. Where **are** the children?

A. They **are** at the community centre for the Black History Month Festival?

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### Location or place (things)

Q. Where **is** your house?

A. It's about two miles from the centre of town.

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### Describing things and what they do

Q. What **is** that?

A. It's a computer disk

Q. What **is** it for?

A. It **is** used for saving information.

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### Describing things (colour)

Q. What colour **is** the box?

A. It's red.

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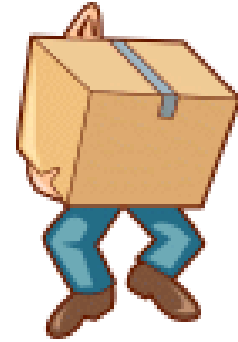
## Verbs - be

### Describing things (size)

Q. How big **is** the parcel?

A. It's very big!

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### Describing things (weight)

Q. How heavy **is** that desk?

A. It's very heavy. I can't move it!

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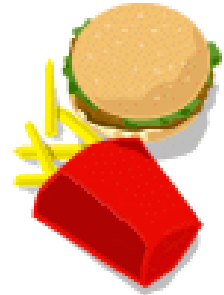


### Describing things (quality)

Q. **Is** that burger tasty?

A. It's not bad, but the fries **are** awful.

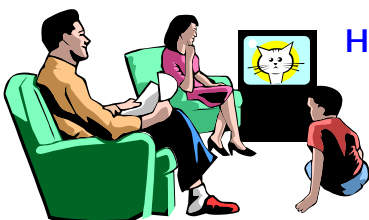
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We use the verb **Be** all the time.

We also use **Be** with the words: **here, there, this, that, these** and **those**.

Your teacher will explain these words or you can check them in a dictionary.



**Here are** the Jacksons. **There are** three of them.

Mr Jackson **is here** and Mrs Jackson **is over there** by the TV. Tommy **is** on the floor watching TV.

We use **Be** with the **present continuous** also. E.g. You **are** reading.

We use the **present continuous** for things we are doing now. E.g. **reading!**