

## The verb to be

### 1. Affirmative and contracted forms

- For the **singular** pronouns in the present: **I am - you are - he is - she is - it is**
- For the **plural** pronouns in the present: **we are - you are - they are**
- The pronoun **“you”** can be both singular and plural.
- The **present participle** is **being**.
- The **past participle** is **been**.

#### Contracted forms :

- Singular : **I'm - you're - he's - she's - it's**
- Plural : **we're - you're - they're**

Examples : **I'm** English / **You're** happy / **He's** married / **She's** tired / **It's** Wednesday.

**You're** busy / **We're** at work / **They're** at the restaurant.

### 2. Negative and contracted forms

As for all negative forms, you just have to add **“not”**.

- Singular : **I am not - You are not - He is not - She is not - It is not**
- Plural : **We are not - You are not - They are not**

Examples : **I am not** tired / **She is not** married

**They are not** here.

#### Contracted negative forms :

The negative contraction has two possibilities for all persons except the first person singular.

- **I'm not** // \_\_\_\_\_
- **You're not** // **You aren't**
- **he's not** // **he isn't**
- **she's not** // **she isn't**
- **it's not** // **it isn't**
- **we're not** // **we aren't**
- **you're not** // **you aren't**
- **they're not** // **they aren't**

### 3. Interrogative forms

- Singular : **Am I tired? - Are you tired? - Is he tired? - Is she tired? - Is it tired?**
- Plural : **Are we tired? - Are you tired? - Are they tired?**

### 4. Question tag forms

A **question tag** is a question form which is added to the end of a statement. This can be a real question – with a rising intonation, or a **false** question which asks the person we are speaking to, to confirm what we say.

Example : **She is really nice, isn't she?**

When using a **negative question tag** with the verb **to be** the first person singular uses **aren't**.

Example : I'm going to be in trouble with the neighbour, **aren't** ?

### 5. To be as an auxiliary verb

When the auxiliary verb **to be** is used in **active** tenses, the **main** verb takes its **present participle** form with and **ing** ending.

Examples : **I am going. / Are you coming? / She isn't smiling.**

When the auxiliary verb **to be** is used in **passive** tenses, the **main** verb takes its **past participle** form (**ed** ending for **regular** verbs).

Examples : **It isn't closed / We aren't informed / They aren't needed.**