

Basic English grammar

TO BE : ETRE

Positive			Negative		Questions
I	am	'm	am not	'm not	Am I ?
You	are	're	are not	aren't	Are you ?
He, she, it	is	's	is not	isn't	Is he, she, it ?
we	are	're	are not	aren't	Are we ?
you	are	're	are not	aren't	Are you ?
they	are	're	are not	aren't	Are they ?

Yes/No questions - be (am, are, is)

Subject and verb change their position in statement and question.

statement	You are from Germany.
question	Are you from Germany?

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We always use the short answer, not only "Yes" or "No".

If the answer is "Yes", we always use the long form.

Example: Yes, I am.

If the answer is "No", we either use the long or the contracted form (short form).

Example: No, I am not - No, I'm not.

Are	you	from Germany?	Yes,	I	am.
			No,	I	am not. 'm not.
Is	he	your friend?	Yes,	he	is.
Are	Peter and John	from England?	Yes,	they	are.

Questions with question words - be (am, are, is)

Question word	Verb	Rest	Answer
Where	are	you from?	I'm from Stuttgart.
What	is	your name?	My name is Peter.
How	are	Pat and Sue?	They're fine.

TO HAVE : AVOIR, posséder

Positive		Negative	Questions
I	have got ('ve got)	haven't got	have I got ?
You	have got ('ve got)	haven't got	have you got ?
He, she, it	has got ('s got)	hasn't got	has he, she, it got ?
we	have got ('ve got)	haven't got	have we got ?
you	have got ('ve got)	haven't got	have you got ?
they	have got ('ve got)	haven't got	have they got ?

*Has Mary got a car? Yes, she **has**.*

*Has she got an American car? No, she **hasn't**. She has got a Seat.*

Personal pronouns, Possessive determiners, Possessive pronouns

Personal pronouns		Possessive determiners	Possessive pronouns
as subject (nominative)	as object (accusative and dative)		
I	me	my	mine
you	you	your	yours
he	him	his	his
she	her	her	hers
it	it	its	its
we	us	our	ours
you	you	your	yours
they	them	their	theirs
1	2	3	4
We have some books.	The books are for us .	These are our books.	The books are ours .

Plural in English

singular + -s

singular	plural
a car	two cars
a cassette	two cassettes
a lamp	two lamps
a hat	two hats
a cup	two cups

Add -es after sibilants:

singular	plural
a box	two boxes
a sandwich	two sandwiches
a suitcase	two suitcases
a rose	two roses
a garage	two garages

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Substitute y after consonant with -ies:

singular	plural
a city	two cities
a lady	two ladies

Add -s after vowel + y:

singular	plural
a boy	two boys
a day	two days

Nouns on -f or -fe:

add -s		substitute with -ves	
singular	plural	singular	plural
a roof	two roofs	a thief	two thieves
a cliff	two cliffs	a wife	two wives
a sheriff	two sheriffs	a shelf	two shelves

Add -s for words ending in -ff.

Always use a dictionary if you are not sure.

Nouns on -o form the plural by adding -s or -es.

add -s		substitute with -ves	
singular	plural	singular	plural
a disco	two discos	a tomato	two tomatoes
a piano	two pianos	a potato	two potatoes
a photo	two photos	a hero	two heroes

There is no rule when to use -s or -es. We often add -s with technical words.

Irregular plural forms:

singular	plural
a man	two men
a woman	two women
a child	two children
a person	two people
a foot	two feet

The definite article - the

The definite article **the** is the same for all genders in singular and in plural:
the boy, the girl, the cat, the computers

[ðə]	[ði]
the following word starts with a spoken consonant	the following word starts with a spoken vowel
the g irl	the E nglish girl
the b ook	the MP3
the s chool	the o ld school
the u nit Here a [ʃ] is pronounced at the beginning of the word.	the u ncle Here a [ʌ] is pronounced at the beginning of the word.

The indefinite article - a

The indefinite article **a** is the same for all genders.
a boy, a girl, a cat

The indefinite article has no plural form.
a boy - boys

We use **an** if the following word starts with a vowel SOUND.

the following word starts with a consonant	the following word starts with a vowel SOUND
a b oy	an a unt
a s chool	an o ld school
a g irl	an A merican girl

Mind the pronunciation of the following word.

a u nit	an u ncle
This u sounds like a consonant, so we use a .	This u sounds like a vowel, so we use an .

Use of the indefinite article a/an

- before phrases of time and measurements (per week/weekly)

We have English 4 times a week .
I go on holiday twice a year .
Our car can do 220 kilometers an hour .

Tomatoes are \$2 **a kilo**.

- before phrases of jobs

My father is **a car mechanic**.

- with a noun complement

He is **a good boy**.

No article.

without the definite article

general words (indefinite)

Life is too short.
I like flowers.

names of persons.

Peter and John live in London.
Aunt Mary lives in Los Angeles.

public buildings, institutions, means of transport (indefinite)

Mandy doesn't like school.
We go to school by bus.
Some people go to church on Sundays.

names of countries in the singular; summits of mountains; continents; towns; streets

Germany, France; **but the USA, the Netherlands and the UK**
Mount Whitney, Mount McKinley;
Africa, Europe;
Cairo, New York
Oxford street

Uncountable nouns

Cheese, rice, water, wine, beer, coffee, information, advice...

Plural of the indefinite article "a"

We are students.

months, days of the week (indefinite)

The weekend is over on Monday morning.
July and August are the most popular months for holidays.

The articles a/an and the in English - Exercises

Decide whether to use the definite article >the< or not.

- 1) My grandmother likes flowers very much.
- 2) I love tea.
- 3) See you on Wednesday.
- 4) I always listen to radio in the morning.
- 5) Alex goes to work by bus.
- 6) Don't be late for school.
- 7) Dennis plays trumpet.
- 8) We often see our cousins on Sunday.
- 9) She wants to go to Paris.
- 10) What about going to Australia in July?

Fill in the article >a<, >an< or >the< where necessary. Choose >x< where no article is used.

- 1) I like blue T-shirt better than red one.
- 2) Their car does 150 miles hour.
- 3) Where's USB drive?
- 4) Do you still live in Bristol?
- 5) Does your mother work in old office building?
- 6) Carol's father works as electrician.
- 7) I like cheese.
- 8) What do you usually have for breakfast?
- 9) You are students in history at the university.

's - Apostrophe, genitive -

English:

Ronny's brother

Singular:

Add 's:

Mandy's brother plays football.

My teacher's name is ...

Plural:

Add the apostrophe ' to regular plural forms:

The girls' room is very nice.

The Smiths' car is black.

Add 's to irregular plural forms:

The children's books are over there.

Men's clothes are on the third floor.

If there are multiple nouns, add an 's only to the last noun:

Peter and John's mother is a teacher.

Nouns	Apostrophe 's	en		313
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Write **apostrophe 's** into the gaps.

Answer: I met **Mandy's** sister yesterday.

- 1) This is book. (**Peter**)
- 2) Let's go to the . (**Smiths**)
- 3) The room is upstairs. (**children**)
- 4) sister is twelve years old. (**John**)
- 5) and bags have blue stickers. (**Susan - Steve**)
- 6) shoes are on the second floor. (**men**)
- 7) My car was not expensive. (**parents**)
- 8) CD player is new. (**Charles**)
- 9) This is the bike. (**boy**)

Form of the Simple Present

We use the infinitive of the verb. In the 3rd person Singular (he, she, it - or a name) we put an -s to the end of the infinitive.

infinitive - 3rd person Singular (he, she, it) **infinitive + -s**

Affirmative sentences:

I/we/you/they **play** football.

He/she/it **plays** football.

Negative sentences:

We use the auxiliary **do**.

I/we/you/they **do not play** football.

He/she/it **does not play** football.

NOTE: We often use short forms in negative sentences in the Simple Present:

I/we/you/they **don't play** football.

He/she/it **doesn't play** football.

Questions:

Do I/we/you/they **play** football?

Does he/she/it **play** football?

Simple Present - Spelling

Be careful with some words when using the 3rd person singular.

1) verbs ending in a sibilant [s] [z] [ʒ] [ʒ] [ʒ] [ʒ] [ʒ] or verbs ending in -o preceded by a consonant

We add **-es** to the infinitive.

Examples:

I watch - he **watches**

I pass - he **passes**

I go - he **goes**

I do - he **does**

2) verbs ending in -y

verbs ending in 'y' preceded by a vowel (a, e, i, o, u): Add -s.

Example:

I play - he plays

verbs ending in 'y' preceded by a consonant: Change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'.

Example:

I hurry - he hurries

Special verbs in the Simple Present

1) have as a full verb		
<i>affirmative sentence</i>	<i>negative sentence</i>	<i>question</i>
I, we, you, they:		
I have breakfast.	I do not have breakfast.	Do I have breakfast?
he, she, it:		
He has a shower in the morning.	He does not have a shower.	Does he have a shower?

2) be as a full verb		
<i>affirmative sentence</i>	<i>negative sentence</i>	<i>question</i>
I am from Britain.	I am not from Britain.	Am I from Britain?
he, she, it:		
He is from Britain.	He is not from Britain.	Is he from Britain?
we, you, they:		
We are from Britain.	We are not from Britain.	Are we from Britain?

We often use the short forms with this verb.

3) do as a full verb		
<i>affirmative sentence</i>	<i>negative sentence</i>	<i>question</i>
I, we, you, they:		
I do an exercise.	I do not do an exercise.	Do I do an exercise?
he, she, it:		
He does an exercise.	He does not do an exercise.	Does he do an exercise?

4) modal auxiliaries can, could, may, must, need, will etc.		
<i>affirmative sentence</i>	<i>negative sentence</i>	<i>question</i>
every time (I, he, she, it, we, you, they):		
I can play tennis.	I cannot play tennis.	Can I play tennis?

NOTE:

We can substitute **don't (can't)** for **do not (cannot)**.

Modals have the same form every time regardless the subject. We do not add an -s to the infinitive

Exercises

A) Fill in the verbs in brackets into the gaps.

Example: He never **writes** a letter.

The pupils songs in the classroom. (*to sing*)

The boys computer games. (*not/to play*)

B) Which answers are correct?

1) Which of the following words are used with the Simple Present (signal words)?

- always
- at the moment
- every day
- now
- often
- sometimes
- yesterday

2) Which verb forms go with the Simple Present?

- Infinitive
- Infinitive + -ed
- Infinitive + -ing
- Infinitive + s
- have + Infinitive + -ed

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C) Fill in the correct verb forms.

1) His friend to school.

2) Every morning my mother at 6 o'clock.

D) Negate the sentences.

Example: He works on the computer. - **He does not work on the computer.**

1) Mr Smith teaches French.

2) Anne and Sue carry a box.

E) Which sentences/questions are correct?

1) In which sentence is the Simple Present used correctly?

- Andrew wash the dishes.
- Andrew washes the dishes.
- Andrew washs the dishes.

2) Which sentence is in the Simple Present?

- He has read a book.
- He is reading a book.
- He read a book.
- He reads a book.
- He will read a book.

A) Fill in the correct verb forms.

1) The lesson at 8.30.

2) It rain in the desert.

3) They wear school uniform.

4) Tomorrow Sunday.

B) Fill in the verbs in brackets into the gaps.

Example: He never **writes** a letter.

1) Water when it . (*to expand*) (*to freeze*)

2) She to lose weight. (*to try*)

3) My aunt often queues. (*to jump*)

4) We sometimes around the shops. (*to look*)

C) Form questions.

Example: where / they / to have / breakfast

Where do they have breakfast?

1) who / to help / Roger / in the shop (Roger = Subject)

2) can / I / to get / you / a glass of water

3) your parents / to wait up for you

4) why / not to clean / you / your shoes

D) Negate the sentences.

Example: He works on the computer. - **He does not work on the computer.**

1) We are from Nigeria.

2) Anne has lunch at home.

3) She wants to become a superstar.

4) The banks close at 2 o'clock.

E) Ask for the underlined part.

Example: Lydia lives in Bulgaria. - **Where does Lydia live?**

1) Mel works in an office.

2) The child plays the trumpet.

3) I like cycling because it's fun.

4) We write to four pen friends.

4) Which verb forms are correct?

- she agrees
- she annoys
- she cries
- she hurrys
- she kisis
- she rushes
- she teachs
- she worrys

G) Rewrite the sentences and use short forms or long forms.

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Example: He doesn't work in the garden. - He does not work in the garden.

1) She does not like rice.

2) You shouldn't eat so much meat.

3) They don't walk to school.

4) I'm not Spanish.

Questions

Question without question words				Short answer		
Is	he		from London?	Yes,	he	is.
				No,	he	isn't.
Are	the boys		at your school?	Yes,	they	are.
				No,	they	aren't.
Can	you	play	ice-hockey?	Yes,	I	can.
				No,	I	can't.
Have	we	got	ketchup?	Yes,	we	have.
				No,	we	haven't.
Has	she	got	a mobile phone?	Yes,	she	has.
				No,	she	hasn't.
Do	they	live	in a flat?	Yes,	they	do.
				No,	they	don't.
Does	he	work	in an office?	Yes,	he	does.
				No,	he	doesn't.
Did	it	rain	yesterday?	Yes,	it	did.
				No,	it	didn't.
Are	they	writing	a test now?	Yes,	they	are.
				No,	they	aren't.
Will	we	arrive	on time?	Yes,	we	will.
				No,	we	won't.

Question words with Examples

Question word	Example
where	Where do you live?
who	Who are you?
when	When do you get up?

what	What are you doing?
why	Why do you smoke?
whose	Whose book is this?
which	Which bus do you take to school?
how	How old are you

Exercises

Questions	Question words	en		401
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Put in **What, Where, Why, When, How** into the gaps and form meaningful questions.

Example: ____ often do you play volleyball?

Answer: **How** often do you play volleyball?

- 1) do you like best?
- 2) does Bill get up in the morning?
- 3) don't you go by bus, Max?
- 4) hobbies does Andrew have?
- 5) do they go to every week?
- 6) old is Mike?
- 7) is Susan's birthday?
- 8) are my exercise books?
- 9) are you doing at the moment, Sally?
- 10) do the Robinsons live?