

2 | The Simple Present of *Be*



Students work together on a science class project in Bahrain.

- OBJECTIVES**
- Write sentences with the verb *be*
 - Spell common words with the sound of *e* in *bed*
 - Write about your classmates or friends

FREWRITE | Write about what makes a good classroom partner.

GRAMMAR FOR WRITING

The Verb *Be*: Affirmative

Be is a common verb in English. It has three forms in the simple present: *am*, *is*, and *are*.

SUBJECT	BE	OTHER INFORMATION
I	am	from Canada.
He She It	is	in the classroom.
You* We They	are	happy.

**You* can be singular (one person) or plural (more than one person).

We often use these contractions in speaking and in informal writing, such as in email. A contraction is two words combined with an apostrophe ('). Do not use contractions in formal writing.

I am—I'm	you are—you're
he is—he's	we are—we're
she is—she's	they are—they're
it is—it's	

ACTIVITY 1 | Identifying subjects and forms of the verb *be*

Circle the verb *be* in each sentence. Underline the subjects.

- I am in an English class.
- English is my second language.
- I am from Mexico.
- My class is big.
- My classmates are from different countries.
- We are the same age.
- I am happy in the class.
- This class is fun.
- The teacher is very good.
- It is my favorite class.

ACTIVITY 2 | Writing sentences with *be*

Write sentences to tell where these people are from. Follow the example.



Luisa—Italy



Wei—China



Marco—Brazil



Toshio—Japan



Atsuro—Japan



Valentina—Italy



Faisal—Saudi Arabia



Maria—Guatemala

- (Luisa) Luisa is from Italy.
- (Wei) _____
- (Marco) _____
- (Toshio) _____
- (Toshio and Atsuro) _____
- (Luisa and Valentina) _____
- (Faisal) _____
- (Maria) _____

The Verb *Be*: Negative

Add *not* after *am*, *is*, or *are* to make a negative.

SUBJECT	BE + NOT	OTHER INFORMATION
I	am not	a teacher.
He She It	is not	from Canada.
You We They	are not	busy.

The contraction for *is not* is *isn't*, the contraction for *are not* is *aren't*. Do not use these contractions in formal writing.

ACTIVITY 3 | Writing negative and affirmative sentences

These sentences are not true. Work with a partner. Correct each sentence with a negative and affirmative sentence. Follow the example.

1. Tokyo is in China.
 - a. Tokyo is not in China.
 - b. Tokyo is in Japan.
2. New York is a small city.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. Sushi and maki are foods from Greece.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
4. I am 5 years old.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
5. Today is January 1.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
6. A gold ring is a cheap gift.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

Sentence Patterns with Be

Several types of information can follow the verb *be*.

SENTENCES WITH BE	PATTERNS WITH BE
I am a student .	<i>be</i> + noun
I am smart .	<i>be</i> + adjective
I am a smart student .	<i>be</i> + adjective + noun
You are in California .	<i>be</i> + place phrase
My meeting is at eleven o'clock .	<i>be</i> + time phrase

Common Mistakes

MISTAKE	PROBLEM	CORRECT
Mary a good person.	verb missing	Mary is a good person.
The boys is in the kitchen.	wrong form of <i>be</i>	The boys are in the kitchen.
That computer no is expensive.	wrong negative	That computer is not expensive.

ACTIVITY 4 | Scrambled sentences

Unscramble the words to write sentences. Use correct capital letters and punctuation. Then write what type of information follows the verb *be* in each sentence.

1. cook a mother my is good
My mother is a good cook. adjective + noun
2. are from my cousins california

3. am swimmer i not excellent an

4. our next to india trip is month

5. the math the table books are on

6. michael on and rob are a boat

7. the questions are math easy

8. football are sports and tennis

BUILDING BETTER VOCABULARY AND SPELLING

Words with the Sound of *e* in *Bed**

ACTIVITY 5 | Which words do you know?

Read the words with the sound of *e* in *bed*. Follow the directions.

1. Notice the spelling patterns.
2. Check (✓) the words you know.
3. Look up new words in a dictionary.
4. Write the meanings in your notebook.



bed

WORDS TO KNOW

GROUP 1:

Words spelled with **e**

- bed
- best
- check
- egg
- end
- enter
- every
- exercise
- get
- hello
- help
- left
- leg
- let
- men
- necessary

- never
- next
- pen
- pet
- red
- sell
- seven
- spell
- tell
- ten
- test
- text **AW**
- well
- went
- west
- when
- yellow
- yes

GROUP 2:

Words spelled with **ea**

- already
- bread
- breakfast
- dead
- head
- ready
- weather

GROUP 3:

Other spellings

- again
- any
- friend
- many
- said
- says

*List is from: Spelling Vocabulary List © 2013 Keith Folse

ACTIVITY 6 | Matching

Match each picture with a word from the Words to Know list.



1. _____

4. _____



2. _____

5. _____



3. _____

6. _____

ACTIVITY 7 | Spelling words with the sound of *e* in *bed*

Fill in the missing letters to spell words with the sound of *e* in *bed*. Then copy each word.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. br _____ d _____ | 6. g _____ t _____ |
| 2. d _____ d _____ | 7. n _____ ver _____ |
| 3. t _____ st _____ | 8. wh _____ n _____ |
| 4. b _____ st _____ | 9. s _____ s _____ |
| 5. m _____ ny _____ | 10. r _____ dy _____ |

ACTIVITY 8 | Scrambled letters

Unscramble the letters to write words that have the sound of *e* in *bed*.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. llew _____ | 7. pells _____ |
| 2. rewathe _____ | 8. letl _____ |
| 3. netx _____ | 9. aaign _____ |
| 4. frndei _____ | 10. emn _____ |
| 5. welloy _____ | 11. der _____ |
| 6. elph _____ | 12. ntwe _____ |

02 ACTIVITY 9 | Spelling practice

Write the words that you hear. You will hear each word two times.

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ | 12. _____ |

ACTIVITY 10 | Which spelling is correct?

Read each pair of words. Circle the word that is spelled correctly.

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------|------------|----------|
| A | B | A | B |
| 1. wether | weather | 11. seven | sevn |
| 2. wint | went | 12. alredy | already |
| 3. bed | baid | 13. any | eny |
| 4. ready | raidy | 14. bred | bread |
| 5. sais | says | 15. dead | ded |
| 6. heallo | hello | 16. weall | well |
| 7. many | meny | 17. tel | tell |
| 8. agein | again | 18. test | tst |
| 9. breakfast | brekfast | 19. spll | spell |
| 10. friend | frend | 20. eagg | egg |

ACTIVITY 11 | Cumulative spelling review, Units 1–2

Circle the word in each set that is spelled correctly.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| A | B | C | D |
| 1. language | language | langage | languge |
| 2. naver | nevr | never | neaver |
| 3. happan | hapen | happen | hapan |
| 4. neaxt | nxt | naxt | next |
| 5. rdey | redy | rady | ready |
| 6. weathr | wether | weather | wather |
| 7. heavy | hvy | havy | hevy |
| 8. meny | menie | many | mny |
| 9. sayed | said | sead | sede |
| 10. agan | egain | agean | again |
| 11. friend | frnd | frend | freand |
| 12. brekfast | briekfast | breakfast | brkfast |
| 13. travl | traval | treval | travel |
| 14. efter | eafter | after | auffer |
| 15. inter | enter | entra | etrin |
| 16. enswer | eanswer | aenswer | answer |
| 17. laff | lauff | lagh | laugh |
| 18. wint | went | wnt | weint |



Waitresses share a laugh at the popular Friends café in Tongatapu, Tonga.

BUILDING BETTER SENTENCES WITH VOCABULARY

ACTIVITY 12 | Scrambled sentences

Unscramble the words to write sentences. Sometimes more than one answer is possible. Use correct capital letters and punctuation.

1. not is a my math brother teacher

2. california from sofia not and emily are

3. my with james meeting is nine at o'clock

4. brazil not são paulo is the capital of

5. very city in large vancouver is a canada

6. vegetable a a tomato not is

7. the colors of yellow and red the chinese are flag

8. these not are very watches expensive

Vancouver is on the west coast of Canada.



ACTIVITY 13 | Finding and correcting mistakes

Circle the mistake(s) in each sentence. The number in parentheses () is the number of mistakes in that sentence. Then write the sentences correctly.

1. Ecuador are a beautiful country in South america. (2)

2. The name Ecuador is means *equator*. (1)

3. About 15 million people live in ecuador. (1)

4. Three big cities in Ecuador are guayquil, quito, and cuenca. (3)

5. many tourists come to Ecuador each year (2)

6. These tourists come to see the beautiful Mountains. (1)

7. These tourists also come to see the animals on the galapagos Islands. (1)

A Galapagos Land Iguana



ACTIVITY 14 | Writing sentences with vocabulary in context

Complete each sentence with the correct word from the box. Then copy the sentences with correct capital letters and punctuation.

best	many	pet	says	well
bread	never	ready	test	when

1. my _____ is a black and white cat

2. _____ is your birthday

3. _____ people live in china and india

4. anna and emily are my _____ friends

5. you can make a good sandwich with meat and _____

6. my brother and I _____ eat meat

7. susan can speak english very _____

8. my best friend always _____ hello to everyone

9. are you _____ to eat dinner now

10. we have a big spelling _____ tomorrow

WRITING

ACTIVITY 15 | Completing a paragraph

Complete the paragraph with words from the box. Circle the letters that need to be capital letters. Then copy the paragraph on a separate piece of paper.

a lot	country	is	photo
capital	from	Mi Sun	United

My Math Class

¹ this is a _____ of my math class. ² kyoko _____ from japan. ³ ahmad and mohamad are from the _____ arab emirates. ⁴ the united arab emirates is a small _____ in the middle east. ⁵ _____ is from seoul. ⁶ seoul is the _____ of korea. ⁷ carlos is _____ costa rica. ⁸ i like the men and women in this class _____.

ACTIVITY 16 | Guided writing

Write the paragraph from Activity 15 again, but make the changes listed below.

Title: Change *Math* to *English*.

Sentence 1: Change *Math* to *English*.

Sentence 3: Change *Ahmad and Mohamad* to *Omar*. Use the correct form of *be*.
Change *the United Arab Emirates* to *Saudi Arabia*.

Sentence 4: Change *the United Arab Emirates* to *Saudi Arabia*. Change *small* to *large*.

Sentence 5: Change *Seoul* to *Busan*.

Sentence 6: Change *Seoul* to *Busan*. Add *not* in the correct place.

Sentence 7: Change *Carlos* to *Juan and Pedro*. Use the correct form of *be*.

ACTIVITY 17 | Writing sentences

Write five to ten sentences on a separate piece of paper. Write about your classmates or friends. Tell their names and the country or city where they are from. For help, you can follow the examples in Activity 15 and Activity 16.