

GRAMMAR REFERENCE A2

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GRAMMAR Be

We use **be** to talk about a person's:

		Affirmative	Negative
a job.	Uncle Oliver is a scientist.	I'm (I am)	I'm not (I am not)
b nationality.	We are English.	you're (you are)	you aren't (are not)
c relatives.	She is my sister.	he's/she's/it's (he/she/it is)	he/she/it isn't (is not)
d name.	I'm Mandy.	we're/you're/they're (we/you/they are)	we/you/they aren't (are not)

Questions

Am I ... ?

Is he/she/it ... ?

Are we/you/they?

Short answers

Yes, I am. / No, I'm not.

Yes, he/she/it is. / No, he/she/it isn't.

Yes, you/we/they are. / No, you/we/they aren't.

GRAMMAR Possessive adjectives

Possessive adjectives show that something belongs to someone or something.

My dad is 37 years old.

His name is Barry.

We live in a white house.

Our house is big.

Subject pronouns

I, you, he, she, it, we,
you, they

Possessive adjectives

my, your, his, her, its, our,
your, their

Note: Be careful with these words:

- **it's** (it is) and **its**
- **you're** (you are) and **your**
- **he's** (he is) and **his**

GRAMMAR Have got

We use **have got** to:

- a describe someone/something.
I've got black hair.
- b show that something belongs to someone/something.
She's got a puzzle.

Affirmative

I've/you've/we've/they've (have) got
he's/she's/it's (has) got

Negative

I/you/we/they haven't (have not) got
he/she/it hasn't (has not) got

Questions

Have I/you/we/they got ... ?
Has he/she/it got ... ?

Short answers

Yes, I/you/we/they have.
Yes, he/she/it has.
No, I/you/we/they haven't.
No, he/she/it hasn't.

Note: Be careful with **its** (possessive adjective) and **it's** (it has) **got**.

GRAMMAR There is, There are

We use **there is** and **there are** to describe scenes and talk about place.

There is a girl in the shop.

There are some books on the desk.

Affirmative

There's (There is) a(n) ...

There are (some) ...

Negative

There isn't (is not) a(n) ...

There aren't (are not) (any) ...

Questions

Is there a(n) ... ?

Are there (any) ... ?

Short answers

Yes, there is. / No, there isn't.

Yes, there are. / No, there aren't.

GRAMMAR Possessive 's

We use **'s** after singular nouns and an apostrophe (**'**) after plural nouns to show something belongs to someone.

This is Emma's dog.

Ron is the boys' dad.

Note: Plural irregular nouns (without **s**) are followed by **'s**.

The children's grandpa is nice.

GRAMMAR Present simple

We use the present simple to talk about:

- a general truths.
*Children **go** to school.*
- b things we do regularly.
*We **play** in the park every day.*
- c permanent states.
*Jan **works** in an English school.*

Spelling rules

I	he/she/it
like	likes
go	goes
watch	watches
brush	brushes
study	studies
play	plays

Note:

I **have**, but he/she/it **has**.

Time expressions

every day/night/week/month/year
at the weekends

in the morning/afternoon/evening
on Thursdays

Time expressions can go at the beginning or end of a sentence.

At the weekends we play on the beach.

My friends and I go to the cinema every Saturday.

GRAMMAR Present simple

Negative

I/you/we/they don't (do not) like
he/she/it doesn't (does not) like
*We **don't have** lunch at school.*
*Mum **doesn't like** football.*

Questions

Do I/you/we/they like ... ?
Does he/she/it like ... ?
***Does** your sister **go** to school?*
***Do** you **study** at the library?*

Short answers

Yes, I/you/we/they do.
No, I/you/we/they don't.
Yes, he/she/it does.
No, he/she/it doesn't.
***Does he like** sports? No, he **doesn't**.*

GRAMMAR Adverbs of frequency

We use adverbs of frequency to show how often we do something. *They **often play** in the park.*

always → **usually** → **often** → **sometimes** → **never**
100% ← of the time → 0% of the time

Adverbs of frequency go before main verbs.

*Dan **usually gets** up at 7.30 in the morning.*

Adverbs of frequency go after the verb *be*.

*They **are usually** at the beach in the afternoon.*

GRAMMAR Question words

We use the question word:

- a **What** to ask about things or animals.
What is that? It's a kite.
What is this? It's a shark.
- b **Who** to ask about people.
Who is that boy? That's John.
- c **Where** to ask about places.
Where is Madrid? It's in Spain.
- d **Whose** to ask about possessions.
Whose house is it? It's my house.
- e **When** to ask about times and dates.
When is your birthday? It's on 12th July.

Note:

Be careful with the words **Who's** (Who is) and **Whose**.

GRAMMAR Can

We use **can** to:

- a talk about ability.
Brian can swim.
- b ask for and give permission.
Can I have some pizza?
You can go on the merry-go-round.

We use a bare infinitive (a verb without *to*, such as *do*, *go*, or *read*) after **can**.

Affirmative

I/You/He/She/It/We/They can swim.

Negative

I/You/He/She/It/We/They can't (cannot) swim.

Question

Can I/you/he/she/it/we/they swim?

Short answers

Yes, I/you/he/she/it/we/they can.

No, I/you/he/she/it/we/they can't.

GRAMMAR Imperative

We use the imperative to give instructions to someone else. We form the imperative with a bare infinitive. We often use **please** with imperatives. We use **don't** to make a negative imperative.

Affirmative

Please **be** careful.

Negative

Don't go to the party!

GRAMMAR Object pronouns

We use object pronouns to replace the object of a sentence.

*I've got **two cats**. I love **them**!*

Subject pronouns

I

he/she/it

we/you/they

Object pronouns

me

him/her/it

us/you/them

GRAMMAR Let's

We use **Let's** with a bare infinitive to make suggestions.

Let's eat.

*It's hot. **Let's go** to the beach!*

GRAMMAR Countable and uncountable nouns

Countable nouns are nouns that we can count. We can use them in the singular and the plural.

*They need a **costume**.*

*Let's buy three **hats**.*

Uncountable nouns are nouns that we cannot count and that haven't got a plural form. We use a singular verb after these nouns. We don't use **a/an** with uncountable nouns.

*There's **music** at the carnival.*

GRAMMAR Some, any

We use **some** in affirmative sentences with plural countable and uncountable nouns.

*I've got **some** presents!*

*There's **some** food on the table.*

We use **any** in negative sentences and questions with plural countable and uncountable nouns.

*There aren't **any** masks in this shop.*

*Have you got **any** paper?*

GRAMMAR Much, many

We use **much** and **many** to describe quantities.
We use **much** in negative sentences and questions with uncountable nouns.

*I don't want **much** juice. Have you got **much** food?*

We use **many** in affirmative and negative sentences and questions with plural countable nouns.

*The restaurant has got **many** menus.*

*I haven't got **many** chips.*

*Are there **many** people at the café?*

We use **how much** and **how many** to ask about quantities.

***How much** water is there?*

***How many** burgers do you want?*

Note:

We can use **lots of** or **a lot of** instead of **many** or **much** in affirmative sentences.

*There are **lots of** sandwiches on the table.*

*My brother eats **a lot of** food.*

Note:

We use **How much** ...? to ask about prices.

***How much** is the orange juice? It's one euro.*

GRAMMAR A lot of, lots of, a few, a little

We use **a lot of** or **lots of** with countable and uncountable nouns in affirmative and negative sentences and questions.

*We haven't got **a lot of** bananas!*

*Have you got **a lot of** money?*

We use **a few** with countable nouns in affirmative sentences and questions.

*There are **a few** restaurants here.*

*Do you want **a few** chips?*

We use **a little** with uncountable nouns in affirmative sentences and questions.

*There is **a little** water.*

*Can I have **a little** cheese, please?*

GRAMMAR Present continuous

We use the present continuous for actions that are happening now.

They **are watching** TV at the moment.

Affirmative

I'm (I am) playing.	It's (It is) playing.
You're (You are) playing.	We're (We are) playing.
He's (He is) playing.	You're (You are) playing.
She's (She is) playing.	They're (They are) playing.

Spelling rules

run	running
come	coming
lie	lying

Time expressions

now
at the moment

GRAMMAR Present continuous

Negative

I'm not (am not) playing.
You aren't (are not) playing.
He/She/It isn't (is not) playing.
We/You/They aren't (are not) playing.

Question

Am I playing?
Are you playing?
Is he/she/it playing?
Are we/you/they playing?

Short Answers

Yes, I am.
Yes, he/she/it is.
isn't.
Yes, you/we/they are.
No, I'm not.
No, he/she/it
No, you/we/they aren't.

He **isn't playing** basketball now. **Are you playing** in the school team? **Is he kicking** the ball? Yes, **he is**.

GRAMMAR Present continuous (to express the future)

We can use the present continuous to talk about future plans.

I'm playing volleyball **this afternoon**.

We **aren't going** to the sports centre **tomorrow**.

Are you coming to the match **on Saturday**?

Time expressions

this afternoon/evening	on Tuesday/Saturday/
tomorrow/tonight	my birthday
at the weekend	at 4 o'clock
	next week/month/year

GRAMMAR Present simple and present continuous

We use the present simple for facts and habits.

I **don't like** cities!

Robbie **often plays** in the garden.

We use the present continuous for actions that are happening now.

I'm looking at the stars.

GRAMMAR Must

We use **must** to talk about obligation. We use a bare infinitive after **must**.

I must clean the house.

Affirmative

I/You/He/She/It/We/They must go.

Negative

You/He/She/It/We/They mustn't (must not) go.

Question

Must I/you/he/she/it/we/they go?

Short answers

Yes, I/you/he/she/it/we/they must.
No, I/you/he/she/it/we/they mustn't.

GRAMMAR Past simple: Be

We use the past simple to talk about events and habits in the past.

*The food **was** delicious last night.*

*I **was** late for school yesterday.*

Affirmative

I/he/she/it was

we/you/they were

Negative

I/he/she/it wasn't (was not)

we/you/they weren't (were not)

Questions

Was I/he/she/it ... ?

Were we/you/they ... ?

Time expressions

yesterday

last night/week/month

Short answers

Yes, I/he/she/it was.

No, I/he/she/it wasn't.

Yes, we/you/they were.

No, we/you/they weren't.

two days/a month ago

in July/2015

Note: The past simple of **There is** and **There are** is **There was** and **There were**.

GRAMMAR Past simple: Regular verbs

Affirmative

We use the past simple to talk about events and habits in the past. We add **-ed** to regular verbs in the past simple.

*He **worked** in a hotel two years ago.*

Spelling rules

dance danced

try tried

stop stoped

GRAMMAR Past simple: Irregular verbs

Affirmative

We do not add **-ed** to the past simple affirmative of irregular verbs. They change in different ways. See page 128 for a list of irregular verbs.

*They **went** on holiday to the Greece last year.*

*He **wore** those swimming trunks yesterday.*

GRAMMAR Past simple (regular and irregular verbs)

Negative

I/you/he/she/it/we/they didn't go

*The actor **didn't give** any autographs.*

Question

Did I/you/he/she/it/we/they go ... ?

***Did** you **see** the new film?*

Short answers

Yes, I/you/he/she/it/we/they did.

No, I/you/he/she/it/we/they didn't.

***Did** he **go** to the studio? Yes, he **did**.*

GRAMMAR Wh- questions in the past simple

We can use **Wh-** questions with the past simple to find out more information about an action in the past.

***Which** film star did you see?*

***Why** did he speak to you?*

***Who** did you see?*

***What** did he say?*

***Where** did you see him?*

***How** did you feel?*

***When** did you see him?*

***Whose** autograph did you get?*

Note: When the question word asks about the subject (person, animal or thing) then the verb stays in the affirmative form.

***Who** went to the cinema?*

GRAMMAR Comparatives

We use the comparative form to compare two people, animals or things.
We often use the word **than** after the comparative form.

*Jake is **taller than** Mandy.*

Short adjectives

tall	tall er
nice	nic er
big	big ger
pretty	prett ier

Long adjectives

beautiful	more beautiful
interesting	more interesting

Irregular adjectives

good	better
bad	worse
many/much	more

GRAMMAR Superlatives

We use the superlative form to compare a person, an animal or thing with many other people, animals or things.

*Polly is **the nicest** girl in the world!*

Short adjectives

tall	the tallest
big	the biggest
nice	the nicest
pretty	the prettiest

Long adjectives

interesting	the most interesting
dangerous	the most dangerous

Irregular adjectives

good	the best
bad	the worst
many/much	the most

GRAMMAR Comparatives and superlatives

We use comparatives to compare two people, animals or things.

*I think cats are **better than** dogs.*

*Worms are **smaller than** elephants.*

We use superlatives to compare one person, animal or thing with many others.

*Cats are **the best** pets for families.*

*Parrots are **the most beautiful** birds in the world.*

GRAMMAR Be going to

We use **be going to**:

- a** to talk about future plans and intentions.
He's going to look at the app.
- b** to predict that something will happen when we have some proof or information.
Look at the clouds. It's going to rain.

We use a bare infinitive after **be going to**.

Donna's going to play outside.

Affirmative

I'm (I am) going to play.
You're (You are) going to play.
He's/She's/It's (He/She/It is) going to play.
We're/You're/They're (We/You/They are) going to play.

Negative

I'm not (I am not) going to play.
You aren't (are not) going to play.
He/She/It isn't (is not) going to play.
We/You/They aren't (are not) going to play.

Questions

Am I going to play?
Are you going to play?
Is he/she/it going to play?
Are we/you/they going to play?

Short answers

Yes, I am. / No, I'm not.
Yes, you are. / No, you aren't.
Yes, he/she/it is. / No, he/she/it isn't.
Yes, we/you/they are. / No, we/you/they aren't.

Time expressions

tomorrow
in the morning
this weekend/summer/evening
next week/month/year
in a week/month/year

GRAMMAR Future simple

We use the future simple to talk about the future.

We use **will** with a bare infinitive.

People will cut down trees in the rainforest.

Affirmative

I/you/he/she/it/we/they will (I'll, you'll, he'll, she'll, it'll, we'll, they'll) play.

Negative

I/you/he/she/it/we/they will not (won't) play.

Question

Will I/you/he/she/it/we/they play?

Short answers

Yes, I/you/he/she/it/we/they will.
No, I/you/he/she/it/we/they won't.

Time expressions

tomorrow, in the morning,
this weekend/summer/evening
next week/month/year, in a week/month/year