

BASIC GRAMMAR RULES & EXERCISES

Lesson 1.

The verb "to be"

The verb **"to be"** is one of the building blocks of the English language.

Rule number 1 in English: There's no sentence **WITHOUT** a verb, so the verb "to be" is often used when there is no other verb in the sentence.

The verb "to be" in Present

Positive		Negative	Questions
I	AM	(NOT)	AM I?
YOU WE THEY	ARE	(NOT)	ARE YOU?
HE SHE IT	IS	(NOT)	IS SHE?

- In a question the "to be" and the subject always change place. See also Lesson 12 Questions.

Circle the correct answer.

1. The dog (are / is /am) in the garden.
2. You (are / is / am) late.
3. It (are / is / am) hot today.
4. The children (are / is / am) not in the swimming pool.

5. She (are / is / am) very good looking.
6. The people in the room (are / is / am) very noisy.
7. The streets (are / is / am) dirty in this part of town.
8. You (are / is / am) not ready! We must go!
9. The people (are / is / am) not very helpful in this city.
10. I (are / is / am) not hungry. I just had breakfast.
11. Why (are / is / am) they always so angry?

Fill in the missing word. Use AM, IS, ARE in positive, negative or question form.

1. My boss _____ (not) ready to give me a raise.
2. It _____ very late. Let's go home!
3. Where _____ my keys? I can't find them anywhere!
4. What _____ all this noise?
5. Who _____ she? She looks familiar.
6. There _____ a kiosk on the corner of the street that sells tobacco.
7. Where _____ you from?
8. My neighbors _____ (not) at home at the moment. They _____ on vacation in Greece.
9. _____ it cold here in the winter?
10. My brother _____ a very handsome guy. You should meet him!
11. There _____ no connection between the two incidents.
12. _____ you interested in going to the movies with me?
13. My car _____ at the garage. I had a flat tire yesterday.
14. Why _____ you so angry? What happened?

15. She _____ (not) the kind of woman who likes jokes.
16. What _____ the time?
17. Excuse me! Where _____ the toilettes in this mall, please?
18. Your idea _____ (not) very good. I don't think the manager will like it.
19. My computer _____ so slow. I need to buy a new one.
20. The basketball team _____ in great shape this season. I hope they will win the championship this year.

The verb to be in the Past tense

Positive	Negative	Questions
I HE SHE IT	WAS 	
YOU WE THEY	WERE 	

Circle the correct answer.

1. I (was / were) not at home last night.
2. She (was / were) very tired in the morning.
3. The dogs (was / were) out in the park.
4. Where (was / were) you last night. I could not reach you at home.
5. The payments (was / were) late, so we had to pay interest.
6. My grandmother (was / were) born in 1930.

7. The weather (was / were) terrible when we (was / were) in Rome.
8. There (was / were) a lot of garbage on the streets after the storm.
9. The Forint (was / were) the currency in Hungary before the Euro.
10. When Sharon and her brother (was / were) children they lived on a kibbutz.

Fill in the missing word. Use AM, IS ARE, WAS, WERE in positive, negative or question form.

1. What _____ the exchange rate last week for the Euro?
2. When my parents _____ young, they _____ hippies.
3. This woman _____ so attractive. I am sure she _____ French.
4. My cat _____ very sick last week. She _____ (not) in the mood to play at all.
5. We _____ late for the birthday party last night, so there _____ no cake left for us.
6. The airport _____ closed because of the weather, so there _____ no flights.
7. The milk in the fridge _____ (not) good. I have to throw it out.
8. I _____ very excited about going to Italy. It _____ a beautiful country.
9. It _____ really a great idea to go to that concert last night. It _____ good music and there _____ lots of interesting people.
10. What _____ that noise?
11. Gili _____ very happy to hear the news that she got the job.
12. The bakery downstairs _____ quite expensive. I prefer to go to the market. Bread _____ much cheaper there.
13. China _____ the leading economy in the world today.

14. Jerusalem _____ (not) very safe right now. Please be careful!
15. There _____ (not) so many homeless people in the North of Tel Aviv.
16. The light _____ out. I think there _____ a power cut. No electricity.
17. Mike said that he _____ not free to date someone.
18. How _____ your head? Do you still have a headache?
19. Where _____ the kids? What _____ this mess? The whole house is upside down?
20. A long time ago, people _____ (not) traveling to other countries.