

Lesson One

GRAMMAR

The Present Tense of *Be*

CONTEXT

The United States

Postcard from New York City

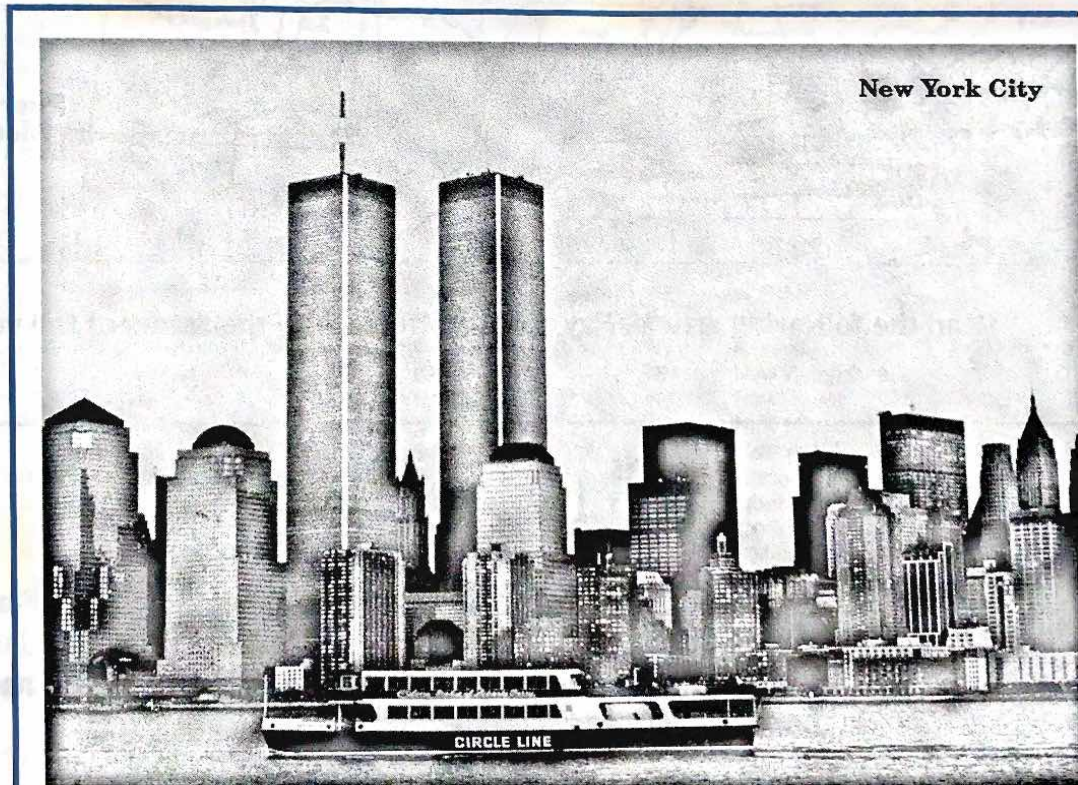
Conversation about Life in the U.S.

LESSON FOCUS

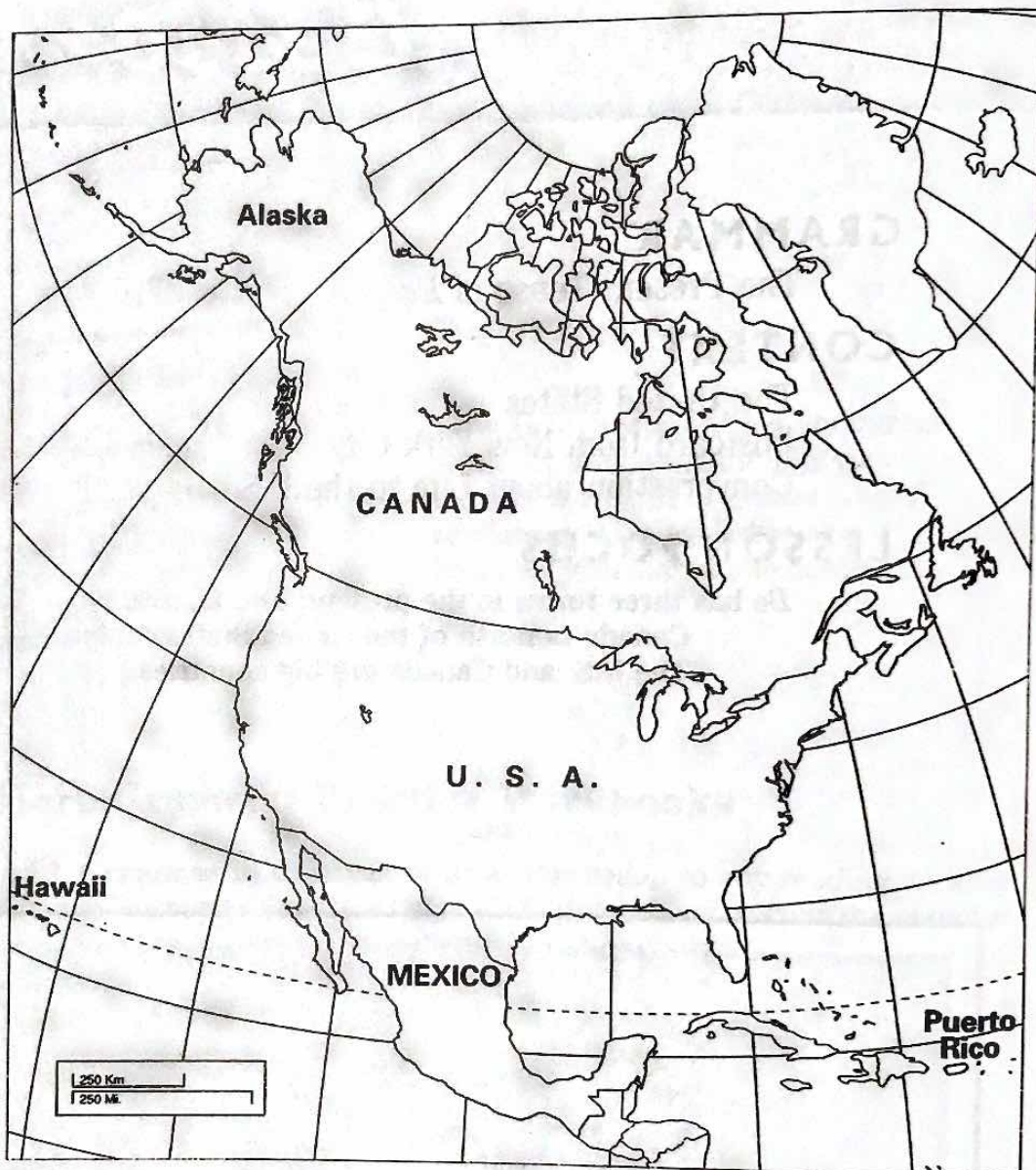
Be has three forms in the present: *am, is, are*.

Canada *is* north of the United States.

The U.S. and Canada *are* big countries.



- Before You Read**
1. Look at the map of North America. Find Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.
 2. Look at the map of the United States. Find the state where you live.



Read the following article. Pay special attention to the forms of the verb *be*.



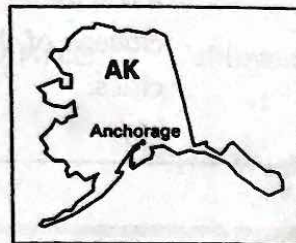
The United States

The United States is a big country. There are 50 states in the U.S. Forty-eight states are on the mainland. Two states are far from the mainland: Alaska and Hawaii. Alaska is the largest state. It is northwest of Canada. Hawaii is in the Pacific Ocean. This state is a group of small islands.

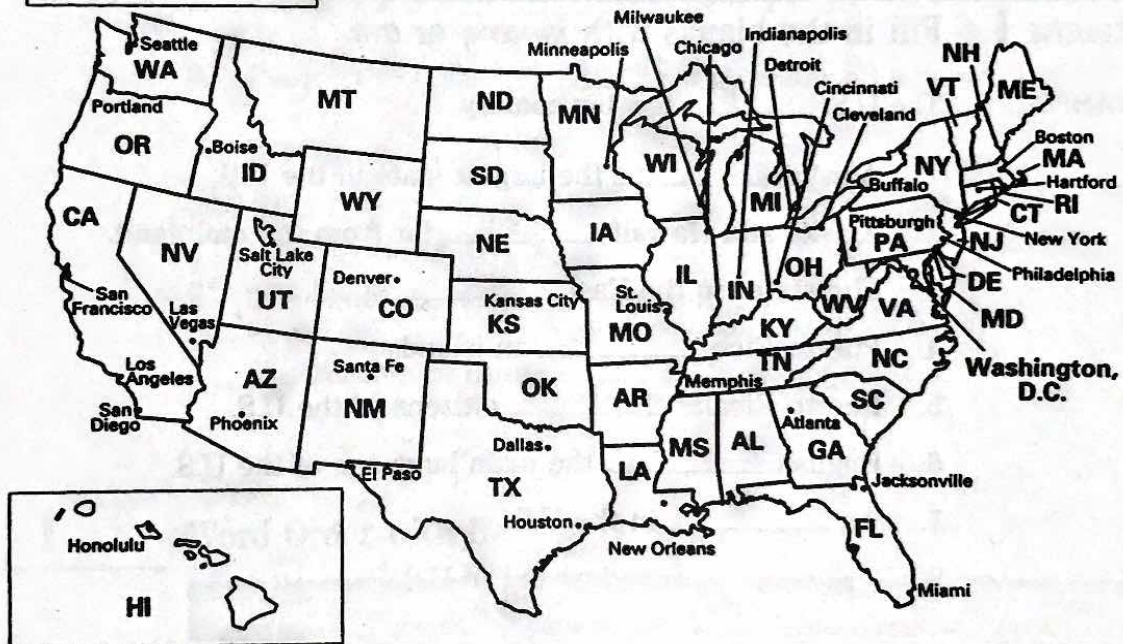
Washington is a state. It is in the northwest. Washington, D.C., is not a state. It is a special government district. It is on the east coast. It is the capital of the U.S. The White House is in Washington, D.C. The White House is the home of the President.

Most states in the eastern part of the U.S. are small. Most states in the West and Southwest are large. The biggest city in the U.S. is New York. Other big cities are Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Boston.

Puerto Rico is not a state. It is a territory of the U.S. It is an island in the Caribbean Sea. Puerto Ricans are citizens of the U.S. The languages of Puerto Rico are Spanish and English.



The United States of America



AL	Alabama	IN	Indiana	NE	Nebraska	SC	South Carolina
AK	Alaska	IA	Iowa	NV	Nevada	SD	South Dakota
AZ	Arizona	KS	Kansas	NH	New Hampshire	TN	Tennessee
AR	Arkansas	KY	Kentucky	NJ	New Jersey	TX	Texas
CA	California	LA	Louisiana	NM	New Mexico	UT	Utah
CO	Colorado	ME	Maine	NY	New York	VT	Vermont
CT	Connecticut	MD	Maryland	NC	North Carolina	VA	Virginia
DE	Delaware	MA	Massachusetts	ND	North Dakota	WA	Washington
FL	Florida	MI	Michigan	OH	Ohio	WV	West Virginia
GA	Georgia	MN	Minnesota	OK	Oklahoma	WI	Wisconsin
HI	Hawaii	MS	Mississippi	OR	Oregon	WY	Wyoming
ID	Idaho	MO	Missouri	PA	Pennsylvania	DC*	District of Columbia
IL	Illinois	MT	Montana	RI	Rhode Island		

*The District of Columbia is not a state. Washington D.C. is the capital of the United States.
Note: Washington D.C. and Washington state are not the same.

1.1 Forms of *Be*

I	am	in New York now.
My father	is	in Boston.
He		a mechanic.
My sister		in Puerto Rico.
Boston		a city.
It		beautiful.
We	are	students.
You		a teacher.
Puerto Ricans		citizens of the U.S.
Chicago and Boston		cities.
They		big.

EXERCISE 1 Fill in the blanks with *is*, *are*, or *am*.

EXAMPLE: The U.S. is a big country.

- Alaska _____ the largest state in the U.S.
- Alaska and Hawaii _____ far from the mainland.
- The states in the East _____ small.
- Puerto Rico _____ an island.
- Puerto Ricans _____ citizens of the U.S.
- English _____ the main language of the U.S.
- We _____ in the U.S.
- I _____ a student in the U.S.

1.2 Uses of *Be*

Examples	Uses of <i>Be</i>
Washington, D.C., is beautiful.	Description
Washington, D.C., is the capital of the U.S.	Classification or definition
Washington, D.C., is in the East.	Location

(continued)

Examples	Uses of <i>Be</i>
We are from Mexico.	Place of origin
I am 25 years old.	Age
It is hot in Puerto Rico.	Weather
It is 6 o'clock.	Time

EXERCISE 2 Fill in the blanks to make true statements.

EXAMPLE: California is on the west coast.
(location)

- Washington, D.C., is on the _____ coast.
(location)
- Chicago is a _____. Illinois is a state.
(classification)
- Puerto Rico is an _____ with water all around.
(classification)
- It is _____ now.
(time)
- It is _____ today.
(weather)
- The American president is about _____.
(age)
- The teacher is from _____.
(place of origin)

1.3 Word Order with *Be*

Subject	<i>Be</i>	Complement	Explanation
I	am	from Los Angeles. ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The subject is first. The subject tells who or what we are talking about. The verb (<i>am, is, are</i>) is second. The complement is third. The complement finishes, or completes, the sentence with a location, classification, description, etc.
Los Angeles	is	a city.	
It	is	very big.	
Spanish	is	my native language.	
You	are	from Cuba.	
It	is	hot in Cuba.	

¹ Americans often say *L.A.* for Los Angeles.

EXERCISE 3 Put the words in the correct order to make a statement. Use a capital letter at the beginning and a period at the end.

EXAMPLE: big / the U.S. / is The U.S. is big.

1. is / beautiful / San Francisco _____
2. is / Texas / a big state _____
3. hot today / it / is _____
4. the teacher / from / is / New York _____
5. years / my brother / is / 25 / old _____
6. a big country / Canada / is _____
7. in the classroom / are / the students _____
8. the map / on page 3 / is _____
9. my parents / in Germany / are _____
10. am / I / a student _____

1.4 The Subject

Chicago is very big.

↓

It is in Illinois.

My sister is married.

↓

She is very happy.

My father is at work.

↓

He is busy.

My friend and I are in California.

↓

We are in Los Angeles.

My cousins are in Mexico.

↓

They are in Mexico City.

China and Korea are countries.

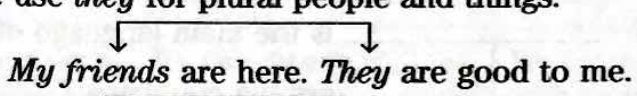
↓

They are in Asia.


LANGUAGE NOTES

1. The **subject** can be a **pronoun**: *I, you, we, they, he, she, it*.
2. **Singular** means one. **Plural** means more than one. A plural noun usually ends in **-s**.
SINGULAR: The *language* of the U.S. is English.
PLURAL: The *languages* of Puerto Rico are Spanish and English.

3. *The United States (the U.S.)* is a singular noun.
The U.S. is a big country. It is in North America.
NOTE: Always use *the* before United States or U.S.
4. *You* can be a singular or plural subject. It uses the verb *are*.
You *are* a student.
You *are* students.
5. When the subject is "another person and I," use the plural verb *are*.
Put the other person before "I."
John and I *are* good friends. (NOT: I and John . . .)
6. We use the subject pronoun *it* to talk about time and weather.
It is hot in Hawaii.
It is 6 o'clock now.
7. We use *they* for plural people and things.



My friends are here. *They* are good to me.

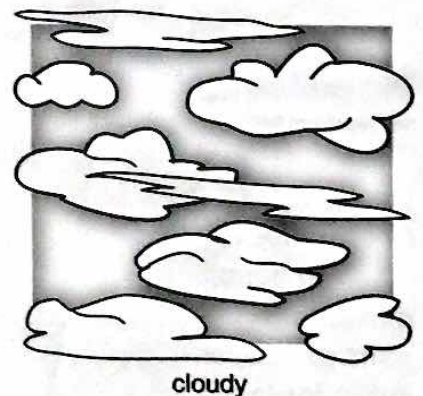


My books are here. *They* are on the floor.

EXERCISE 4 Fill in the blanks with the correct pronoun.

EXAMPLE: Canada and Mexico are countries. They are in North America.

1. Florida is a state. _____ is in the Southeast.
2. _____ is warm in Florida.
3. New York and Boston are big cities. _____ are in the East.
4. _____ am a student.
5. The United States is a big country. _____ is between Canada and Mexico.
6. _____ is 4:30 P.M.
7. My parents are in California. _____ are in L.A.
8. You and I are students. _____ are in the classroom now.
9. _____ is cloudy today.
10. Puerto Rico and Cuba are islands. _____ are in the Caribbean Sea.



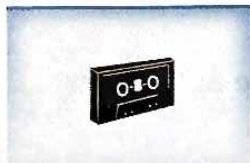
EXERCISE 5 Fill in the blanks with a subject.

EXAMPLE: Los Angeles is a big city.

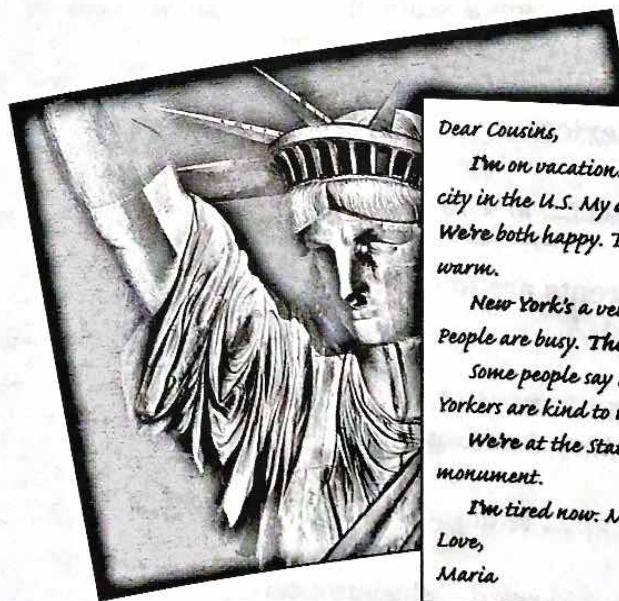
- _____ is a city in the East.
- _____ are states in the East.
- _____ are citizens of the U.S.
- _____ is the home of the President.
- _____ is the language of Mexico.
- _____ is the main language of the U.S.
- _____ are big countries.
- _____ are in the U.S. now.
- _____ is warm in July.
- _____ are ESL students.

- Before You Read**
1. Name a place in the U.S. that you want to visit.
 2. What is your favorite city? Why?

Read the following postcard. Pay special attention to the contractions.



Postcard from New York City



Dear Cousins,
I'm on vacation. I'm in New York City now. It's the biggest city in the U.S. My daughter's with me. She's very happy here. We're both happy. The weather's nice this week. It's sunny and warm.

New York's a very interesting city, but life's so fast here. People are busy. They're always in a hurry. And traffic's terrible.

Some people say New Yorkers aren't very friendly, but New Yorkers are kind to me. When I'm lost, strangers are helpful. We're at the Statue of Liberty now. It's a beautiful monument.

I'm tired now. More later.

Love,
Maria

Did you know...?

The Statue of Liberty was a gift from France in 1876 to honor one hundred years of independence for the U.S.

1.5

Contractions with *Be*

Full Forms	Contracted Forms	Explanation
I am You are It is She is He is We are They are	I'm in New York City. You're at home. It's hot today. She's happy. He's busy. We're tired. They're on vacation.	We can make a contraction with a subject pronoun and <i>am</i> , <i>is</i> , and <i>are</i> . We take out the first letter of <i>am</i> , <i>is</i> , <i>are</i> and put an apostrophe (') in its place. We usually use a contraction when we speak. We sometimes write a contraction in informal writing.
My daughter is New York is Traffic is	My daughter's with me. New York's big. Traffic's terrible.	We can make a contraction with most nouns and <i>is</i> .

LANGUAGE NOTES

- We don't make a contraction with *is* if the noun ends in these sounds: *s*, *z*, *sh*, or *ch*.
 The United States *is* a big country.
 The White House *is* in Washington, D.C.
 France *is* in Europe.
 New Orleans *is* a beautiful city.
 English *is* the language of the U.S.
 Long Beach *is* in California.
- We don't make a contraction with a plural noun and *are*.
 Strangers *are* helpful.

EXERCISE 6 Fill in the blanks with the correct form of *be*. Make a contraction whenever possible. Not every sentence can have a contraction.

EXAMPLE: The United States is a big country. It 's between Canada and Mexico.

- Canada and Mexico _____ countries. They _____ in North America.
- Texas _____ a big state in the U.S. It _____ in the South.
- The White House _____ in Washington, D.C. It _____ the home of the President. He _____ busy now.

4. Texas and Alaska _____ the biggest states in the U.S.
5. Los Angeles _____ a big city. It _____ in California.
6. Puerto Rico _____ an island. Puerto Ricans _____ American citizens.
7. English _____ the main language of the U.S. Spanish and English _____ the languages of Puerto Rico. German _____ the language of Germany. French _____ the language of France.
8. My daughter and I _____ in New York City now. We _____ happy here.
9. Life _____ fast in New York City.
10. People _____ busy. They _____ in a hurry.

EXERCISE 7 Fill in the blanks. Make a contraction whenever possible. Not every sentence can have a contraction.

I ^{'m} _____ a student of English at City College. _____ 'm happy in the U.S. My teacher _____ American. His name _____ Charles Madison. Charles _____ an experienced teacher. _____ patient with foreign students.

My class _____ big. _____ interesting. All the students _____ immigrants, but we _____ from many different countries. Five students _____ from Asia. One woman _____ from Poland. _____ from Warsaw, the capital of Poland. Many students _____ from Mexico.

We _____ ready to learn English, but English _____ a difficult language. I sometimes tell Charles, "You _____ a very kind teacher." Charles says, " _____ all good students, and I _____ happy to teach you English."

1.6 *Be with Descriptions*

Subject	Be	(Very)	Adjective
New York City	is		
People	are	very	big.
The weather	is		helpful.
I	am		nice. tired.

LANGUAGE NOTES

1. We use a form of *be* with words that describe the subject. We use **adjectives** to describe. Descriptive adjectives have no plural form.
New York is *big*.
New York and Chicago are *big*.
2. Some words that end with *-ed* or *-ing* are adjectives: *married*; *tired*; *interesting*; *boring*.
I'm *worried* about you.
We're *tired*.
New York City is *interesting*.
3. We use a form of *be* with a physical or mental condition.
He's *hungry*. We're *afraid*.
I'm *thirsty*. They're *angry*.

EXERCISE 8 Complete each statement with a subject and the correct form of *be*. Write a contraction wherever possible. Make a **true** statement. Use both singular and plural subjects.

EXAMPLES: My parents are _____ intelligent.
The teacher's very _____ patient.
Many people in my former country are _____ poor.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. _____ red. | 7. _____ big. |
| 2. _____ expensive. | 8. _____ wonderful. |
| 3. _____ cheap. | 9. _____ difficult. |
| 4. _____ new. | 10. _____ beautiful. |
| 5. _____ rich. | 11. _____ famous. |
| 6. _____ lazy. | 12. _____ young. |

EXERCISE 9 Write a form of *be* and an adjective to describe each of the following nouns. You may work with a partner.

EXAMPLES: This classroom is clean.
New York City is interesting.

1. The teacher _____
2. This city _____
3. This college _____
4. Today's weather _____
5. Americans _____
6. American food _____

1.7

Be with Definitions

Singular Subject	Be	A or An (Adjective)	Singular Noun
I	am	a	student.
You	are	a	teacher.
New York	is	an interesting	city.
Plural Subject	Be	(Adjective)	Plural Noun
New York and L.A.	are	big	cities.
We	are	foreign	students.

LANGUAGE NOTES

1. A **noun** is a person, place or thing. We use a noun after *be* to classify or define the subject.
2. We use the **article** *a* or *an* before a singular noun. We use *an* before a vowel sound. The vowels are *a, e, i, o, u*.
3. We don't use the article *a* or *an* before a plural noun.
4. We can put an adjective before the noun.

EXERCISE 10 Fill in the blanks with a form of *be* and a definition of the subject. You may add an adjective. Be careful to add *a* or *an* for singular nouns.

EXAMPLES: California is a state.

Puerto Rico is an American territory.

1. Canada _____
2. Alaska _____
3. Blue _____
4. Wednesday _____
5. Christmas _____
6. Saturday and Sunday _____
7. The Pacific and the Atlantic _____
8. White and green _____
9. January and February _____
10. California and Illinois _____

3. _____ big company.
4. _____ expensive item.
5. _____ nice season.
6. _____ American holiday.
7. _____ warm months.
8. _____ small countries.
9. _____ South American countries.
10. _____ big cities.
11. _____ famous people. (NOTE: *people* is plural)
12. _____ American cars.

EXERCISE 14 Fill in the blanks to talk about this city. Make **true** statements. Remember to add *a* or *an* for a singular noun. You may work with a partner.

EXAMPLES:

Chez Paul is an

_____ expensive restaurant in this city.

January and February are

_____ cold months in this city.

1. _____ interesting place.
2. _____ popular tourist attraction.
3. _____ big stores.
4. _____ beautiful months.
5. _____ beautiful park.
6. _____ inexpensive restaurant.
7. _____ busy streets.
8. _____ good college.
9. _____ dangerous area.
10. _____ tall buildings.

EXERCISE 15 Fill in the blanks to make **true** statements. Put in a subject and a form of *be*. Read your answers to the class.

EXAMPLES:

Rock music is

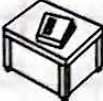






_____ popular in my country.

Politicians are





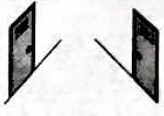
_____ rich in my country.

1. _____ the biggest city in my country.
2. _____ rich.
3. _____ expensive.
4. _____ the language(s) of my country.
5. _____ necessary for a good life.
6. _____ a popular sport.
7. _____ hard to find.
8. _____ a common last name.
9. _____ a beautiful place.

1.8 *Be* with Location and Origin

Preposition	Examples	
On	The book is on the table. The cafeteria is on the first floor.	
At (a general area)	I am at school. My brother is at home. They are at work.	
In (a complete or partial enclosure)	The students are in the classroom. The wastebasket is in the corner.	
In front of	The blackboard is in front of the students.	
In back of/Behind	The teacher is in back of the desk. The blackboard is behind the teacher.	
Between	The empty desk is between the two students.	
Above/Over	The exit sign is over the door. The clock is above the exit sign.	

(continued)

Preposition	Examples	
Under/Below	The textbook is below the desk. The dictionary is under the textbook.	
Near/By/Close to	The sharpener is by the window. The sharpener is near the window. The sharpener is close to the window.	
Next to	The light switch is next to the door.	
Far from	Los Angeles is far from New York.	
Across from	Room 202 is across from Room 203.	
In (a city)	The White House is in Washington, D.C.	
On (a street)	The White House is on Pennsylvania Avenue.	
At (an address)	The White House is at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.	
From	Mario is from Brazil. He is from Sao Paolo.	

LANGUAGE NOTES

1. We use **prepositions** to show location and origin.
2. Word Order = Subject + *Be* + Preposition + Place

EXERCISE 16 Use a form of *be* and a preposition to tell the location of these things or people in your classroom or school.

EXAMPLES:

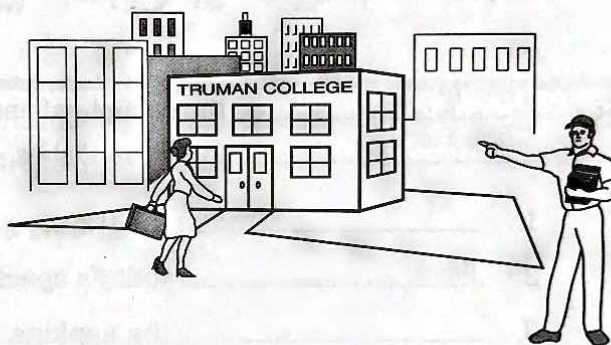
My dictionary _____ *is in my bag.*
 The students _____ *are in front of the teacher.*

1. This classroom _____
2. The clock _____
3. The teacher _____
4. The wastebasket _____
5. The light switch _____

6. The chalkboard _____
7. I _____
8. My books _____
9. The cafeteria _____
10. The school _____
11. The school library _____
12. We _____

1.9

This, That, These, Those

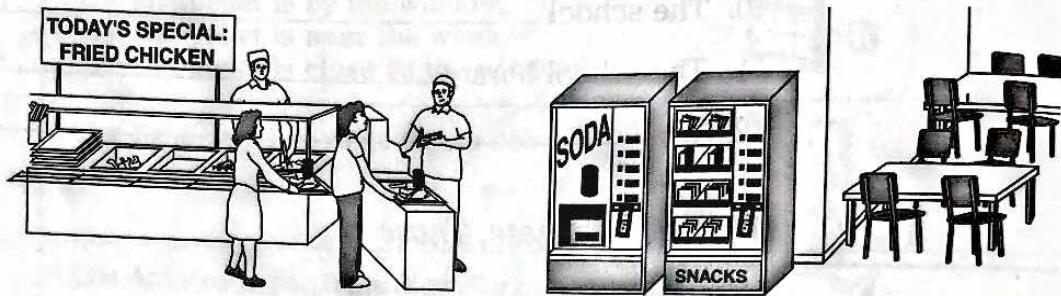


	Near	Not Near/Far
SINGULAR	This is my school.	That is my teacher.
PLURAL	These are my books.	Those are tall buildings.

LANGUAGE NOTES

1. We use *this, that, these, and those* to identify objects and people.
2. Only *that is* can form a contraction in writing: *that's*.
3. After we identify a noun, we can use subject pronouns.
This is my school. *It's* on Wilson Avenue.
Those are tall buildings. *They're* downtown.
That's my teacher. *She's* a nice woman.

EXERCISE 17 Imagine that you are showing a new student the school cafeteria. Use *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those*, and a form of *be* to complete each statement. The arrows indicate if the item is near or far.



EXAMPLES:

This is _____ the school cafeteria. →
Those are _____ the clean dishes. →

1. _____ the trays. →
2. _____ today's special. →
3. _____ the napkins. →
4. _____ the forks, knives, and spoons. →
5. _____ the cashier. →
6. _____ the vending machines. →
7. _____ the eating area. →
8. _____ the teachers' section. →

1.10

Negative Statements with *Be*

Examples	Explanation
I am not married. Peter is not at home. We are not doctors.	We put <i>not</i> after a form of <i>be</i> to make a negative statement.
I'm not late. English isn't my native language. My friends aren't here now.	We can make contractions for the negative.

LANGUAGE NOTES

There is only one contraction of *I am not*. There are two negative contractions for all the other combinations. Study the negative contractions:

I am not	I'm not	—
you are not	you're not	you aren't
he is not	he's not	he isn't
she is not	she's not	she isn't
it is not	it's not	it isn't
we are not	we're not	we aren't
they are not	they're not	they aren't
Tom is not	Tom's not	Tom isn't

EXERCISE 18 Fill in the blanks with a pronoun and a negative verb. Practice using both negative forms.

EXAMPLE:

The classroom is clean and big.
It isn't _____ dirty. *It's not* _____ small.

1. We're in the classroom.
_____ in the library. _____ in the cafeteria.
2. Today's a weekday.
_____ Saturday. _____ Sunday.
3. I'm a student. _____ a teacher.
4. The students are busy.
_____ lazy. _____ tired.
5. You're on time.
_____ early. _____ late.
6. My classmates and I are in an English class.
_____ in the cafeteria. _____ in the library.

EXERCISE 19 Fill in the blanks with a form of *be* to make a true affirmative statement or negative statement about the U.S.

EXAMPLES:

The U.S. *is* _____ in North America.

The U.S. *isn't* _____ a small country.

1. Washington, D.C., _____ a state.
2. Washington, D.C., _____ the capital of the U.S. It _____ on the East Coast.

3. The eastern states _____ big.
4. The western states _____ big.
5. The White House _____ in New York.
6. New York _____ a big city.
7. Alaska and Hawaii _____ on the mainland.
8. Puerto Rico _____ a state of the U.S.
9. Puerto Rico and Hawaii _____ islands.
10. Florida _____ in the South. It _____ cold in the winter.

EXERCISE 20 True or False. Tell if you think the following statements are true or false. Discuss your opinions

	True	False
1. English is easy for me.		
2. English is easy for children.		
3. American teachers are very strict. ²		
4. This school is in a nice area.		
5. This course is expensive.		
6. All Americans are rich.		
7. Baseball is popular in the U.S.		
8. January and February are nice months.		

EXERCISE 21 Fill in the blanks with a form of *be* to make an affirmative statement or negative statement about you, your native country, or your hometown. You may share your answers with a partner from a different country.

EXAMPLES: I ^{'m} _____ from the capital city.
I ^{'m not} _____ from a small town.

1. I _____ happy with the government of my country.
2. I _____ from the capital city.
3. My city _____ noisy.
4. American cars _____ common in my country.

²A strict teacher has a lot of rules.

5. Teachers _____ strict.
6. Most people _____ rich.
7. Gas _____ cheap.
8. Apartments _____ expensive.
9. Bicycles _____ a popular form of transportation.
10. Public transportation _____ good.
11. My country _____ rich.
12. A college education _____ free.
13. The president (prime minister) _____ a woman.
14. My hometown _____ in the mountains.
15. My hometown _____ very big.
16. It _____ very cold in the winter in my hometown.

EXERCISE 22 Use the words in parentheses () to change each sentence into a negative statement.

EXAMPLE: My teacher is American. (Canadian)
He isn't Canadian.

1. Los Angeles and Chicago are cities. (states)

2. I'm from Mexico. (the U.S.)

3. The U.S. is a big country. (Cuba)

4. Alaska is a big state. (Maryland and Delaware)

5. We're in class now. (in the library)

6. You're an English teacher. (a math teacher)

7. Chicago is a big city. (Springfield)

8. Chicago and Springfield are in Illinois. (Miami)

9. January is a cold month. (July and August)

10. You're American. (I)

EXERCISE 23 Fill in the blanks with the affirmative or negative of the verb *be* to make a true paragraph.

My name is (example) (your name). I (1) from an English-speaking country. I (2) a student at City College. I (3) in my English class now. The class (4) big. My teacher (5) a man. He/She (6) very young. The classroom (7) very nice. It (8) clean. My classmates (9) all very young students. We (10) all from the same country. We (11) all immigrants. I (12) happy to learn English. English (13) very easy for me. It (14) a useful language.

Before You Read

1. Are all the students in our class about the same age?
2. Is your rent high?



Read the following conversation. Pay special attention to questions with *be*.



Conversation about Life in the U.S.

- A. **Are you happy with your life in the U.S.?**
B. Yes and no. Some things are good. Some things are not so good.
- A. **What are some good things?**
B. I'm free. I'm free to say and do what I like.
- A. **What are some problems?**
B. Rent is high.
- A. **How much is your rent?**
B. It's over \$700 a month for a one bedroom apartment. And medical care is so expensive.
- A. **How much is a doctor's visit?**
B. It's over \$100. But the visits are so short. I'm only in the doctor's office for 15 minutes. And doctors are cold. They're interested only in your disease, not in the whole person.
- A. **Are you happy with education in the U.S.?**
B. Yes and no. Public elementary and high schools are free, but colleges and universities are very expensive.
- A. **How much is the tuition at your college?**
B. It's over \$50 per credit hour. And books are so expensive. But college classes are interesting. The students are from all over the world. And they're all ages. One man in my English class is very old.
- A. **How old is he?**
B. He's 82.
- A. **Eighty-two? Are you sure?**
B. Yes. He's an interesting man. He's a great student. In my country, most of the students are about the same age. They're young.
- A. **What are some other differences between colleges in the U.S. and in your country?**
B. The teachers are very friendly and informal here. In my country, the teachers are strict and formal.
- A. **What's your favorite thing about life in the U.S.?**
B. The people. They're friendly and helpful.

1.11

Be in Yes/No Questions and Short Answers

Statement	Yes/No Question	Short Answer
I am a student.	Am I a good student?	Yes, you are.
You are from France.	Are you from Paris?	No, I'm not.
He is late.	Is he absent?	No, he isn't.
She is married.	Is she happy?	Yes, she is.
It is cold today.	Is it windy?	Yes, it is.
We are here.	Are we late?	No, you aren't.
They are new students.	Are they from Mexico?	Yes, they are.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- To ask a *yes/no* question with the verb *be*, we put a form of *be* before the subject.
- We usually answer a *yes/no* question with a short answer. A short answer contains a pronoun.
Is the teacher here today? Yes, *she* is.
- We don't use a contraction for a short *yes* answer.
Is Texas a big state? Yes, *it is*. NOT: Yes, *it's*.
- We usually use a contraction for a short *no* answer.
Is today Saturday? No, it isn't. OR No, it's not.
- We usually end a *yes/no* question with rising intonation. Listen to your teacher pronounce the statements and questions in the above box.

EXERCISE 24 Look at the maps of the U.S. on pages 2 and 3 to help you answer these questions.

EXAMPLES:

Is Miami in Florida?
Yes, it is.

Is New York City the capital of the U.S.?
No, it isn't.

- Is Texas a big state?
- Are Puerto Ricans citizens of the U.S.?
- Is New York City near the Atlantic Ocean?
- Is Hawaii near Alaska?
- Is Chicago the capital of Illinois?
- Is Chicago a big city?
- Is Puerto Rico an island?
- Is Alaska an island?

EXERCISE 25 Close your book. The teacher will ask you some questions. Answer with a **true** short answer. If the answer is negative, you may add more information.

EXAMPLE: Is your book new?
Yes, it is. OR No, it isn't. It's a used book.

1. Is your hometown big?
2. Is Spanish your native language?
3. Is English hard for you?
4. Are you from South America?
5. Are you a citizen of the U.S.?
6. Are you married?
7. Are these questions difficult?
8. Is my pronunciation clear to you?
9. Am I a strict teacher?
10. Are all of you from the same country?
11. Are all of you the same age?

EXERCISE 26 Ask questions about this school and class with the words given. Another student will answer. Use the correct form of *be*.

EXAMPLE: school/big
A. Is this school big?
B. Yes, it is.

1. this school/near your house
2. it/near public transportation
3. the cafeteria/on this floor
4. it/open now
5. the library/in this building
6. it/closed now
7. this course/free
8. the textbooks/free
9. the teacher/strict
10. this room/clean
11. it/big
12. the chalkboard/black

EXERCISE 27 Ask questions with the words given. Another student will answer. Use the correct form of *be*.

EXAMPLE: you/a new student
A. Are you a new student?
B. Yes, I am. OR No, I'm not. This is my second semester here.

1. you/from Asia
2. you/a new student
3. your hometown/ big
4. you/from the capital city
5. you/an immigrant
6. you/happy in the U.S.
7. baseball/popular in your country
8. American cars/popular in your country
9. teachers/strict in your country
10. education/free in your country

EXERCISE 28 Ask questions about the U.S. with the words given. Another student will answer. If no one knows the answer, ask the teacher.

EXAMPLE:

movie stars/rich

A. Are American movie stars rich?

B. Yes, they are. They're very rich.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. American teachers/rich | 8. houses/expensive |
| 2. a high school education/free | 9. Americans/friendly |
| 3. a college education/free | 10. English/the official language |
| 4. college books/free | 11. Japanese cars/popular |
| 5. medical care/free | 12. fast-food restaurants/popular |
| 6. doctors/rich | 13. movie tickets/cheap |
| 7. blue jeans/popular | 14. public schools/closed on
Christmas |

EXERCISE 29 Read each statement. Then write a *yes/no* question about the words in parentheses (). Write a short answer.

EXAMPLE:

The post office is closed on Sunday. (this school) (yes)

Is this school closed on Sunday? Yes, it is.

- July and August are warm months. (January and February) (no)

- New York is a big city. (Chicago) (yes)

- California is a big state. (Alaska and Texas) (yes)

- Doctors are rich. (movie stars) (yes)

- Washington, D.C., is in the East. (Washington state) (no)

- New York is on the East Coast. (California) (no)

- Chicago isn't a state. (Illinois) (yes)

- Education in public schools is free. (education in private schools)
(no) _____

1.12 *Wh-* Questions

<i>Wh</i> -Word	<i>Be</i>	Subject	<i>Be</i>	Complement	Short Answer
Where	Is	Los Angeles	is	a city.	Yes, it is.
	is	Los Angeles Los Angeles?		on the West Coast?	
Where	Is	Sacramento	is	the capital of California.	No, it isn't.
	is	Sacramento Sacramento?		in Southern California?	

Study the different question words:

Question Word	Question	Answer
<i>Who</i> = person	Who is your teacher?	My teacher is Ms. Weiss.
<i>What</i> = thing	What is your name?	My name is Linda.
	What is Christmas?	Christmas is a holiday.
<i>When</i> = time Use <i>in</i> for months and years. Use <i>on</i> for days and dates.	When is Christmas?	It's in December. It's on December 25.
	<i>Why</i> = reason	Why is Mr. Park absent?
<i>Where</i> = place	Where is China?	It's in Asia.
	Where are your books?	They're on the floor.
	Where are you from?	I'm from Hong Kong.
<i>How</i> = description, health	How is your life in the U.S.?	It's difficult.
	How is the weather today?	It's warm today.
	How is your mother?	She's fine.

LANGUAGE NOTES

1. A *wh-* question asks for information.
2. The *wh-* word + *is* can form a contraction.
Where's your father? *How's* the weather now?

EXCEPTIONS:

- We can't make a contraction for *which is*: → Which is your book?
 - We can't make a contraction for a *wh-* word + *are*: → Why are they late?
3. We usually end a *wh-* question with falling intonation. Listen to your teacher say the questions in the above chart.

EXERCISE 30 Fill in the blanks with the correct question word and a form of *be*.

EXAMPLE: What's your name?
My name is Frank.

1. _____ Los Angeles?
It's in California.
2. _____ your birthday?
It's in June.
3. _____ your teacher?
My teacher is Martha Simms.
4. _____ a rose?
A rose is a flower.
5. _____ you late?
I'm late because of traffic.
6. _____ your sisters and brothers?
They're in my country.
7. _____ you?
I'm fine. And you?
8. _____ the teacher's office?
It's on the second floor.
9. _____ the restrooms?
The restrooms are at the end of the hall.
10. _____ Labor Day in the U.S.?
It's in September.
11. _____ we here?
We're here because we want to learn English.
12. _____ the weather today?
It's cloudy and cool.

EXERCISE 31 Test your knowledge. Circle the correct answer to the following questions. The answers are at the bottom of the page.³ (You may work with a partner.)

1. Where's Dallas?
a. in California b. in Texas c. in Illinois

³ Answers: 1b, 2a, 3b, 4c, 5c, 6b, 7b, 8c, 9a

2. When is American Independence Day?
a. July 4 b. May 31 c. December 25
3. It's 8 a.m. in New York. What time is it in Los Angeles?
a. 11 a.m. b. 5 a.m. c. 10 a.m.
4. On what day is Thanksgiving?
a. on Friday b. on Sunday c. on Thursday
5. One of these is the name of a Great Lake. Which one is the name of a Great Lake?
a. Mississippi b. Missouri c. Michigan
6. Where is the World Trade Center?
a. in San Francisco b. in New York City c. in Los Angeles
7. What is the first day of summer?
a. June 1 b. June 21 c. June 30
8. When is Labor Day in the U.S.?
a. in May b. in June c. in September
9. What's the biggest state?
a. Alaska b. Texas c. New York

1.13 Questions with *What* and *How*

<i>What</i>	Noun	<i>Be</i>	Complement	Answer
What		is	a verb?	It's an action word.
What	nationality	is	the teacher?	She's American.
What	kind of book	is	this?	It's a grammar book.
What	day	is	today?	It's Friday.
What	time	is	it?	It's 4 o'clock.
What	color	are	your new shoes?	They're black.

<i>How</i>	Adjective/Adverb	<i>Be</i>	Complement	Answer
How		is	your new job?	It's great.
How		is	the weather today?	It's cool.
How	old	is	your brother?	He's 16 (years old.)
How	tall	are	you?	I'm 5 feet, 3 inches tall.
How	long	is	this course?	It's 10 weeks long.
How	much	is	that painting?	It's \$500.

LANGUAGE NOTES

1. A noun can follow *what*: *what time, what day, what color*
2. An adjective or adverb can follow *how*: *how big, how old, how much*
3. For height, Americans use feet (') and inches (").
How tall is your father? He's 5 feet 8 inches tall. or He's five-eight.⁴
4. *How are you?* is often just a way to say hello. People usually answer, "Fine, thanks. How are you?"

EXERCISE 32 Fill in the blanks to complete the questions.

EXAMPLE: How old are your parents? They're in their 50s.

1. What _____ your husband? He's Mexican.
2. What _____ it? It's 3 o'clock.
3. What _____ car _____ that? That's a Japanese car.
4. What _____ words _____ *tall, old, new, and good*? They're adjectives.
5. What _____ your new car? It's dark blue.
6. How _____ ? My son is ten years old.
7. How _____ ? My brother is 6 feet tall.
8. How _____ ? I'm 25 years old.
9. How _____ ? That car is \$10,000.
10. How _____ ? The movie is 2½ hours long.

EXERCISE 33 Fill in the blanks to make **true** statements about yourself. Then find a partner from a different country, if possible, and interview your partner by asking questions with the words in parentheses ().

EXAMPLE: I'm from Bosnia (Where)
A. I'm from Bosnia. Where are you from?
B. I'm from Taiwan.

1. My name is _____. (What)
2. I'm from _____. (Where)

⁴See Appendix G for conversion from centimeters to feet and inches.

3. The president/prime minister of my country is _____. (Who)
4. The president/prime minister of my country is about _____ years old. (How)
5. The flag from my country is _____. (What color)
6. My country is in _____. (Where)
(continent or region)
7. I'm _____ feet, _____ inches tall. (How tall)
8. My birthday is in _____. (When)
(month)
9. My favorite TV show is _____. (What)
10. My favorite color is _____. (What)

EXERCISE 34 Read each statement. Then write a *wh*- question with the words in parentheses (). Answer with a complete sentence.

EXAMPLE:

Miami is in Florida. (Los Angeles)
Where is Los Angeles? It's in California.

1. Paris is in France. (Washington, D.C.)

2. The capital of England is London. (the capital of the U.S.)

3. Miami and Orlando are in Florida. (Los Angeles and San Francisco)

4. Alaska is a state. (Philadelphia)

5. Canada is in North America. (Peru)

6. Poland is in Europe. (Ethiopia and Nigeria)

7. Korea and Japan are in Asia. (Colombia)

8. The Mexican flag is green, white, and red. (what color/the American flag)

9. Igor and Boris are Russian names. (what kind of names/James and William)

10. It's 6 o'clock in New York. (what time/L.A.)

EXERCISE 35 Read the following telephone conversation between Cindy (C) and Maria (M). Fill in the blanks.

C. Hello?

M. Hi, Cindy. This is Maria.

C. Hi, Maria. How are you?
(example)

M. I'm fine. This is a long-distance call. I'm not home now.

C. Where _____?
(1)

M. I'm in New York City. I'm on vacation.

C. _____?
(2)

M. Oh, yes. It's very interesting. The Statue of Liberty is here.

C. How _____?
(3)

M. It's sunny and warm.

C. _____?
(4)

M. No, I'm not alone.

C. Who _____?
(5)

M. My daughter is with me.

C. _____?
(6)

M. She's 12. She's very interested in the U.S.

C. It's six-thirty in Los Angeles. _____ in New York?
(7)

M. It's nine-thirty.

C. I'm happy to hear from you. Thanks for calling.

M. I'll see you when I get home.

SUMMARY OF LESSON 1

1. Uses of Be

Description: Chicago **is** big.

Identification/Classification: This **is** Chicago. It **is** a city.

Location: Chicago **is** in Illinois.

Place of origin: The teacher **is** from Chicago.

Age: I **am** 25 (years old).

Physical or mental condition: He **is** hungry. I **am** thirsty. She **is** worried.

Time: It **is** 6 p.m.

Weather: It **is** warm today.

2. Subject Pronouns

I we he she it you they

3. Contractions

Subject pronoun + form of **be**: I'm, you're, he's, she's, it's, we're, they're

Subject noun with **is**: the teacher's, Tom's, Mary's

Is or **are** + **not**: isn't, aren't

Wh- word + **is**: what's, when's, where's, why's, who's, how's

4. **This/That/These/Those**

This is an English book.

These are pencils.

That is a pen.

Those are pens.

5. Articles **a/an**

Chicago is a big city.

Puerto Rico is an island.

6. Statements and Questions with **Be**

AFFIRMATIVE:

California is a state.

NEGATIVE:

Los Angeles isn't a state.

YES/NO QUESTION:

Is Los Angeles in California?

SHORT ANSWER:

Yes, it is.

WH- QUESTION:

Where is Chicago?

AFFIRMATIVE:

You are from Asia.

NEGATIVE:

You aren't from Europe.

YES/NO QUESTION:

Are you from China?

SHORT ANSWER:

No, I'm not.

WH- QUESTION:

Where are you from?

EDITING ADVICE

1. Don't repeat the subject with a pronoun.

My father ~~he~~ lives in Australia.

2. Use correct word order. Put the subject at the beginning of the statement.

~~Is small~~ Cuba.
Cuba is small.

3. Use the correct word order. Put the adjective before the noun.

Cuba is a ^{small country.} ~~country small.~~

4. Use the correct word order in a question.

Where ^{is he} ~~he is~~ from?

5. Every sentence has a verb. Don't omit *be*.

My sister ^{is} ~~a~~ teacher.

6. Every sentence has a subject. For time and weather, the subject is *it*.

^{It's} ~~is~~ 6 o'clock now.

^{It's} ~~is~~ very cold today.

7. Don't confuse *your* (possession) with *you're*, the contraction for *you are*.

^{You're} ~~Your~~ a good teacher.

8. Don't confuse *this* and *these*.

^{This} ~~These~~ is my coat.

^{These} ~~This~~ are my shoes.

9. The plural of the subject pronoun *it* is *they*, not *its*.

Dogs are friendly animals. ^{They're} ~~Its~~ good pets.

10. Always use *the* before U.S. and United States.

My sister is in ^{the} ~~U.S.~~

11. Use a singular verb after *the United States*.

The U.S. ^{is} ~~are~~ a big country.

12. Do not use a contraction for *am not*.

^{I'm not} ~~I am not~~ an American.

13. Put the apostrophe in place of the missing letter.

She ^{isn't} ~~isnt~~ here today.

14. Use an apostrophe, not a comma, for a contraction.

^{I'm} ~~I,m~~ a good student.

15. Use the article *a* before a singular noun.

New York is ^a big city.

16. Don't use *a* before plural nouns.

July and August are a warm months.

17. Don't use the article *a* before an adjective with no noun.

New York is a big.

18. Use *an* before a vowel sound.

Puerto Rico is ^{an} ~~a~~ island.

19. Don't make an adjective plural.

My daughters are beautifuls.

20. Don't make a contraction with *is* after *s*, *z*, *sh*, or *ch* sounds.

Los Angeles^{'s} ~~s~~ a big city.

21. For age, use a number only or a number + *years old*.

He's 12 years. or He's 12 years old.

22. Don't use a contraction for a short *yes* answer.

Are you from Mexico? Yes, ^{I am.} ~~I'm.~~

23. Don't separate *how* from the adjective or adverb.

How ^{old is he?} ~~is he old?~~

LESSON 1 TEST / REVIEW

PART 1

Find the mistakes with the underlined words and correct them. Not every sentence has a mistake. If the sentence is correct, write C.

EXAMPLES: He's my brother.

Chicago's a big city. C

1. New York and Los Angeles are a big cities.
2. The teacher's not here today.

3. She isn't in the library.
4. I amn't from Pakistan. I'm from India.
5. The students they are very smart.
6. Alaska and Texas are bigs states.
7. We're not hungry. We aren't thirsty.
8. It's warm today.
9. I'm from Ukraine. My wife from Poland.
10. My little brother is 10 years.
11. French's a beautiful language.
12. It's 4:35 now.
13. Your in the U.S. now.
14. These is a good book.
15. These are my pencils.
16. Those dogs are beautiful. Its friendly.
17. I live in U.S.
18. January is cold month.
19. My father is a tall.
20. New York City and L.A. are bigs.
21. Chevrolet is a American company.
22. Is he from Peru? Yes, he's.
23. Chicago it's a big city.

PART 2

Find the mistakes with word order and correct them. Not every sentence has a mistake. If the sentence is correct, write C.

EXAMPLES: I have a book new
 She is 25 years old. C

1. Is very long this book.
2. She has a car very beautiful.
3. Why you are late?
4. How old are you?
5. What nationality your wife is?

6. What color is your new coat?

7. Why the teacher is absent?

8. Is your father a doctor?

PART 3

Fill in the blanks to complete this conversation. Not all blanks need a word. If the blank doesn't need a word, write 0.

A. Where are you from ?
(example)

B. I'm from 0 Mexico.
(example)

A. Are you happy in _____ U.S.?
(1)

B. Yes, I _____. The U.S. is _____ great country.
(2) (3)

A. _____ from _____ big city?
(4) (5)

B. Yes. I'm from Mexico City. It's _____ very big city. This city
(6)
is _____ big and beautiful too. But _____ cold in the winter.
(7) (8)

A. _____ from Mexico too?
(9)

B. No, my roommate _____ from Taiwan. I'm happy in the U.S., but
(10)
he _____ happy here. He _____ homesick.
(11) (12)

A. Why _____ homesick?
(13)

B. His parents _____ in Taiwan. He _____ alone here.
(14) (15)

A. How _____ ?
(16)

B. He's very young. He _____ only 18 years _____.
(17) (18)

A. What _____ his name?
(19)

B. His name _____ Lu.
(20)

PART 4

Write a contraction of the words shown. If it's not possible to make a contraction, put an X in the blank.

EXAMPLES: she is she's

English is X

- 1. we are _____
- 2. you are not _____
- 3. I am not _____
- 4. they are _____
- 5. this is _____
- 6. Los Angeles is _____
- 7. Mary is not _____
- 8. he is not _____
- 9. what is _____
- 10. what are _____

PART 5

Read the conversation between two students, Sofia (S) and Danuta (D). They are talking about their classes and teachers. Fill in the blanks.

D. Hi, Sofia. How's your English class?

S. Hi, Danuta. It's ⁵ _____ wonderful. I _____ very happy with it. (1)

D. _____ 'm in level 3. What level _____ in? (2) (3)

S. I' _____ in level 2. (4)

D. My English teacher _____ Ms. Kathy James. _____ a very good teacher. Who _____? (5) (6) (7)

S. Mr. Bob Kane is my English teacher. _____ very good, too. (8)

D. _____ an old man? (9)

S. No, he _____ . He's _____ young man. He _____ about 25 years _____ . How _____ ? (10) (11) (12) (13) (14)

D. Ms. James _____ about 50 years old. (15)

S. How _____ ? (16)

D. She's about 5 feet, 6 inches tall.

S. Is she American?

D. Yes, she _____ . She's from New York. (17)

S. _____ ? (18)

- D. Yes. My class is very big. The students _____ from many countries.
(19)
- Ten students _____ from Asia, six students _____ from
(20) (21)
- Europe, one student _____ from Africa, and five are _____
(22) (23)
- Central America. Is your class big?
- S. No, it _____.
(24)
- D. Where _____?
(25)
- S. The students _____ all from the same country. We _____ from
(26) (27)
- Russia.
- D. _____ Russian?
(28)
- S. No. Mr. Kane isn't Russian. He's from Canada, but he's _____
(29)
- American citizen now.
- D. _____?
(30)
- S. No. That's not Mr. Kane. That _____ my husband. I _____
(31) (32)
- late! See you later.

EXPANSION ACTIVITIES

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

- Write a sentence about yourself. Give your height, a physical description, your nationality, your occupation, your age (optional), your gender (man or woman). Put the papers in a box. The teacher will read each paper. Guess who it is.

EXAMPLE:

I'm 5'8" tall.
I'm Mexican.
I'm thin.
I'm 21 years old.

- Work with a partner. Describe a famous person (an actor, a singer, an athlete, a politician). Report your description to the class. Do not give the person's name. See if your classmates can guess who it is.

EXAMPLE:

He is a former basketball player.
He's tall.
He's famous.
He's an African American.

3. Check the words that describe you. Find a partner and ask each other questions using these words. See how many things you have in common. Tell the class something interesting you learned about your partner.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. ___ happy | i. ___ afraid to speak English |
| b. ___ from Africa | j. ___ an only child ⁶ |
| c. ___ from Asia | k. ___ from the capital of my country |
| d. ___ from Europe | l. ___ an American citizen |
| e. ___ interested in politics | m. ___ hungry |
| f. ___ a grandparent | n. ___ married |
| g. ___ under 20 years old | o. ___ athletic |
| h. ___ in love | |

4. Fill in the blanks. Then find a partner and read your sentences to your partner. See how many times you match your partner's sentence.

- a. Love is _____
- b. This city is _____
- c. Children are _____
- d. The teacher is _____
- e. Money is _____
- f. The American president is _____
- g. My friends are _____
- h. I am _____
- i. Public transportation in this city is _____
- j. This book is _____

5. Work with a partner from the same country, if possible. Fill in a few items for each category. Report some information to the class.

⁶ An *only child* has no sisters or brothers.

EXAMPLE: Typical of the U.S.

Common last names	Common cars	Popular tourist attractions	Popular sports	Language(s)	Capital city	Other big cities
Johnson Wilson	Ford Chevy Toyota	Disneyland the Grand Canyon	baseball basketball football	English	Washington, D.C.	New York Los Angeles Chicago

Your country _____

Common last names	Common cars	Popular tourist attractions	Popular sports	Language(s)	Capital city	Other big cities

WRITING

Write a paragraph using Exercise 23 as a model. For every negative statement that you write, add an affirmative statement. You may add other information, too.

EXAMPLE:

●	My name is Mohammad. I'm not from an English-speaking country. I'm from Iran. I'm not a student at City College. I'm a student at Roosevelt University. I'm in an English class now...
●	

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

1. Interview an American (a neighbor, a co-worker, another student or a teacher at this college). Ask him or her the following questions. Report this person's answers to the class.

- a. What city are you from?
 - b. Are your parents or grandparents from another country? Where are they from?
 - c. Is most of your family in this city?
 - d. Are you happy with this city? Why or why not?
 - e. What are your favorite places in this city?
2. Do you have a postcard from your hometown? Bring it to the class and tell about the picture.
 3. Buy a postcard of this city. Write to a friend, giving some information about the picture or about this city. Read your postcard to the class.

Internet Activity



Using the Internet, find out more about the Statue of Liberty.

1. How tall is it?
2. Where is it?
3. Is it free for visitors?
