

# 1

# The Verb 'to be' and Jobs

## GRAMMAR NOTES

The verb 'to be' is very important in English.  
First, check you know the **subject pronouns** in English.



### Positive Forms

We usually use the contracted form when we speak.

Subject + 'to be'	Contracted form	Example Sentence
I am	I'm	I'm a teacher
You are	You're	You're a student
He is	He's	He's a police officer
She is	She's	She's a doctor
It is	It's	It's a chair
We are	We're	We're teachers
They are	They're	They're lawyers

### Negative Forms

Subject + 'to be' + not	Contracted form	Example Sentence
I am not	I'm not	I'm a teacher. I'm not a doctor.
You are not	You're not OR You aren't	You're a person. You're not a cat.
He is not	He's not OR He isn't	He's a police officer. He isn't a doctor.
She is not	She's not OR She isn't	She's a doctor. She's not a teacher.
It is not	It's not OR it isn't	It's a chair. It isn't a cat.
We are not	We're not OR We aren't	We're teacher. We're not lawyers.
They are not	They're not OR They aren't	They're lawyers. They aren't teachers.

### Pronunciation Notes

The letter r in the word **are** is silent, so it's pronounced /a:/ not /a:r/  
The /i:/ sound in **he's** and **she's** is a long sound.



## Questions forms

Remember, if we want to ask someone what their job is, we ask them **What do you do?** but to make a question using 'to be' we do something different – we put the verb first and the subject second.

'to be' + subject	Example Question	Example Answer
Am I	Am I a teacher?	Yes, you are.
Are you	Are you a chair?	No, I'm not.
Is he	Is he a teacher?	No, he isn't./No, he's not. He's a police officer
Is she	Is she a teacher?	No, she isn't./No, she's not. She's a doctor.
Is it	Is it a chair?	Yes, it is.
Are we	Are we teachers?	Yes, we are.
Are they	Are they doctors?	No, they aren't. /No they're not. They're lawyers.



## Pronunciation Notes

When we speak, the verb and the subject in question forms often get squashed together.

e.g. Am\_I / Are\_you / Is\_he / Is\_she / Is\_it / Are\_we / Are\_they

## GRAMMAR EXERCISES FROM THE VIDEO

Answers to all of the exercises are on the Answer Page.

### Task 1 – Complete these sentences using the correct form of 'to be'

- 1 e.g. He is / He's a police officer.
- 2 I \_\_\_ a teacher.
- 3 It \_\_\_ a chair.
- 4 She \_\_\_ a doctor.
- 5 They \_\_\_ lawyers.
- 6 We \_\_\_ teachers.
- 7 You \_\_\_ a student.

### Task 2 – Answer these questions

- 1 Is he a police officer? e.g. Yes, *he is*.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Is it a chair?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Is he a teacher?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Is she a doctor?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Are they lawyers?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Task 3 – Correct these sentences

- 1 I is a teacher. e.g. *I am a teacher.*
- 2 He isn't not a cat.
- 3 I amn't a doctor.
- 4 They is lawyers.
- 5 She be a teacher.
- 6 You are police officer?

## GRAMMAR EXERCISES FOR EXTRA PRACTICE

### Task 4 – Answer these questions using the verb 'to be'

- 1 Is it Monday today?
- 2 Are you a teacher?
- 3 Is it cold in your country?
- 4 Are you happy today?
- 5 What do you do?

### Task 5 – Write questions for these answers

Question	Answer
1	Yes, I am.
2	No, you aren't.
3	Yes, he is.
4	No she isn't.
5	No, it isn't.
6	Yes we are.
7	No they aren't.

### Task 6 – Write 5 sentences about yourself and people you know using the verb 'to be'

e.g. *I'm a teacher. I'm not a doctor. I have a friend called Victoria. She's a doctor.*

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_



## ANSWERS FOR THE GRAMMAR EXERCISES FROM THE VIDEO

### Task 1

- 1 e.g. **He is / He's** a police officer
- 2 **I am / I'm** a teacher
- 3 **It is / It's** a chair
- 4 **She is / She's** a doctor
- 5 **They are / They're** lawyers
- 6 **We are / We're** teachers
- 7 **You are / You're** a student

### Task 2

- 1 e.g. Yes, he is
- 2 Yes, it is.
- 3 No, he isn't.
- 4 Yes, she is.
- 5 Yes, they are.

### Task 3

- 1 e.g. I am a teacher.
- 2 He isn't a cat OR He's not a cat
- 3 I'm not a doctor.
- 4 They are lawyers.
- 5 She is a teacher.
- 6 Are you a police officer?

## VOCABULARY LESSON 1 – JOBS

### New Vocabulary

- 1 An **accountant** helps people with their money.
- 2 A **businessman** or **businesswoman** has their own company or business.
- 3 A **builder** builds houses and other buildings.
- 4 A **chef** cooks in a hotel or restaurant.
- 5 A **cleaner** cleans houses or offices.
- 6 A **factory worker** works in a factory which is a place where things are made.
- 7 A **farmer** grows animals or food.
- 8 A **hairdresser** cuts people's hair.
- 9 A **nurse** helps sick people.
- 10 A **receptionist** answers the phone and welcomes people in an office building or a hotel.
- 11 A **shop assistant** helps people in a shop.
- 12 A **waiter** gives people food in a restaurant.
- 13 A **soldier** works in an army.
- 14 A **taxi driver** takes a taxi.

#### a or an?

- Before the word **teacher** we use the article **a**.
- Before the word **accountant** we use the article **an**.

This is because the first letter in accountant is a vowel. There are 5 vowels in the English alphabet: a,e,i,o,u.



There's also some other vocabulary which is important to know when we're talking about jobs:

- If someone is **retired** it means they have stopped working because they are older.
- If someone is **unemployed** it means they don't have a job at the moment.




















## Pronunciation

Let's look at the pronunciation of these jobs. The circles show us the number of syllables in each word. A big circle means that this part of the words is stressed – so it is longer and louder when we speak.

E.g. doctor   This word has 2 syllables with the stress on the first syllable.

Practise saying all of the words in the table with the correct syllables and word stress.

1 syllable	2 syllables	3 syllables		4 syllables	
	 	  	  	   	   
chef nurse	builder farmer cleaner waiter soldier factory worker taxi driver	businessman hairdresser	accountant (shop) assistant	business- woman	receptionist


## HOW TO USE WORD CARDS

You can print out the word cards below and cut them up to help you remember the new vocabulary. On the back each word card you can write a definition in English, a translation or draw a picture to help you remember the meaning of the word.

*front*

*back*

e.g.

accountant	someone who helps people with their money
accountant	
accountant	<i>un comptable</i>

### Word Cards

accountant	nurse
builder	receptionist
businessman/ businesswoman	retired
chef	shop assistant
cleaner	soldier
factory worker	taxi driver
farmer	unemployed
hairdresser	waiter

