



***BASIC***  
***ENGLISH GRAMMAR***  
  
*for*  
  
***University Students***

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## Note to the teacher

*Basic English Grammar* has been developed to meet the requirements of those university students who need to refresh their English grammar. The book takes the learner from the very beginning of his study of English grammar to a knowledge and control of a great many of the most essential patterns of the language.

*Basic English Grammar* is similar to many other grammar books available. The present book, however, is new in approach, presentation and organization. In each lesson, the grammatical points are discussed briefly in tables. We think that it is not necessary to discuss everything in detail; some potential questions might be answered by the exercise materials. The exercises include completion, substitution, transformation, combination, etc.

Some questions can be posed after an exercise, when the class has had an opportunity to go through a number of examples. It is a good idea to keep the discussion about structure brief, since examples play important roles in the learning process. Moreover, it may be helpful to assign some of the exercises or parts of the exercises as written homework.

As any experienced teacher knows, one of the best ways to practice English is to use it in a meaningful context. That is why, teachers should provide students with meaning-oriented practice. For example, teachers may ask the students questions to encourage them to use the grammatical points that have been presented in that session.

Finally, the exercises in lessons 10, 20 and 30 are designed to review all the patterns presented throughout the book. The teacher should feel free to present all of the exercises, or only those parts which review patterns that are difficult for his or her class, or they may assign the exercises as written homework.

Board of Authors





# Lesson 1

## A. Be: am, is, are

A1. **Be** has three forms in the simple present tense: **am**, **is** and **are**.

I **am** a teacher.  
You **are** a student.  
He **is** tired.  
We **are** brothers.  
They **are** at the library.

After '**be**' we can use nouns, adjectives, or adverbs (*time* and *place*).

Ali is **a lawyer**. (n.)  
Sara is **intelligent**. (adj.)  
Reza is **at the office**. (adv.)

Exercise 1. Use **am**, **is** or **are**.

My name is Mina. I ----- 18 years old. I ----- from a village in the northern part of Iran. My father ----- a farmer and my mother ----- a housewife. I have two brothers and a sister. My brothers ----- in high school. My sister ----- in junior school. We ----- a happy family.

**A2. Questions with be:**

The book **is** here. (*statement*)  
**Is** the book here? (*question*)

The students **are** in the yard.  
**Are** the students in the yard?

I **am** on time.  
**Am** I on time?

Exercise 2. Change into questions.

1. We are in class.
2. Iran and Japan are in Asia.
3. Her parents are at work.
4. Amin is married.
5. His name is Mr. Damavandi.
6. I am quite busy today.
7. You are an engineer.
8. The students are in the classroom.
9. Greece is in Europe.
10. Sima is clever.

**A3. Negatives with be:**

Ali **is not** (isn't) a university student. He is a mechanic.  
The boys **are not** (aren't) lazy. They are active.  
I **am not** (I'm not) a teacher. I'm a student.

Exercise 3. Make negative like the example.

Iran is in Europe. (*Asia*)

*Iran isn't in Europe. It's in Asia.*

1. The sun is cold. (*hot*)
2. The earth is flat. (*round*)
3. Milk is black. (*white*)
4. We are in the yard. (*classroom*)
5. I am a teacher. (*student*)
6. Reza and Ali are hungry. (*full*)
7. They are from Spain. (*Iran*)
8. The students are lazy. (*active*)
9. Spain is in Africa. (*Europe*)
10. The tea is weak. (*strong*)
11. Ali is tall. (*short*)
12. Asia is small. (*large*)

A4. **Short and full answers:**

Is it a newspaper?

**Yes, it is.**

**Yes, it is a newspaper.**

Are they angry?

**No, they aren't.**

**No, they aren't angry.**

Exercise 4. Give negative answers like the example.

Is Ali a teacher? (*student*)

*No, he isn't. He is a student.*

1. Is Reza short? (*tall*)
2. Is Parvin in grade 1? (*grade 2*)

3. Are you old? (*young*)
4. Are Ali and Amir wrong? (*right*)
5. Am I late? (*early*)
6. Is the shop open? (*closed*)
7. Are you married? (*single*)
8. Is the tree tall? (*short*)
9. Is the room large? (*small*)

### B. Subject pronouns

Pronouns are used in place of noun phrases to avoid repetition.

**Mehdi** is from Tabriz.

**Minoo** is an artist.

Are **Ali and Amin** here?

Are **the banks** closed?

Is **the book** useful?

Are **you and I** students?

**He** is a dentist.

**She** is from Kerman.

No, **they** aren't.

No, **they** are open.

Yes, **it** is.

Yes, **we** are.

Exercise 5. Give negative short answers.

1. Are you from England? .....
2. Is the window closed? .....
3. Are the boxes heavy? .....
4. Is Bahareh a university student? .....
5. Are Mr. and Mrs. Brown doctors? .....
6. Am I late? .....
7. Are you tired, children? .....
8. Is the book easy? .....
9. Am I a lawyer? .....

### C. Singular and plural nouns

C1. Most nouns form their plural by adding **-s** to the singular.

a map	maps
a window	windows
an orange	oranges

C2. Nouns ending in **s, x, z, ch,** and **sh** become plural by adding **-es**.

a bus	buses
a bench	benches
a wish	wishes

C3. Nouns ending in **y** with a vowel before the **y** take **-s**.

a valley	valleys
a toy	toys
a day	days
a way	ways

C4. If there is a consonant before the **y**, the **y** changes to **-ies**.

a baby	babies
a country	countries
a library	libraries

Exercise 6. Change into plural.

Example: It is a notebook.

*They are notebooks.*

1. It is a window.
2. It is a hill.
3. It is a monkey.
4. It is a city.
5. I am a lawyer.
6. You are an engineer.
7. She is a nurse.
8. It is a circle.
9. It is a square.
10. He is a boy.

**D. Indefinite articles: *a* and *an***

**A** or **an** is used with singular countable nouns mentioned for the first time.

I am reading **a** book.

We have **a** car and **an** apartment.

**An** is used before a word that begins with a vowel sound.

<b>an</b> apple	<b>an</b> old city
<b>an</b> example	<b>an</b> umbrella
<b>an</b> island	<b>an</b> interesting book

**A** is used before consonants.

**a** camera    **a** tree    **a** house

**Note**

It is the sound that tells you when to use **a** or **an**, not the spelling.

<b>a</b> unit	<b>an</b> hour
<b>a</b> university	<b>an</b> honest man
<b>a</b> European country	<b>an</b> MP
<b>a</b> one-way street	<b>an</b> 'L'

Exercise 7. Use **a** or **an** where necessary.

1. Is it ----- umbrella? No, it isn't. It is ..... mushroom.
2. They like ----- oranges.
3. Is it ----- bird or ----- plane?
4. I have ----- egg and ----- cup of tea for breakfast.
5. Oxygen and hydrogen make up ----- water.
6. There is ----- spider on the ceiling. It is trying to catch ----- insect.
7. She's ----- artist and he's ----- taxi-driver.
8. Mrs. Karimi is ----- university student.
9. Some children are afraid of ----- dogs.
10. My roommate has ----- banana and ----- apple.

\*\*\*\*\*



# Lesson 2

## A. Simple present tense

Simple present tense is used for habitual actions.

A1. All verbs other than **be** have two forms in simple present tense: an **-s form** and a **simple form**.

The **-s form** is used with the third person singular subjects (He/She/Ali/My son/...).

The **simple form** is used with other persons.

I You We The students They	<b>live</b> in this city. _____ <b>have</b> a good teacher.
Mina She Reza He	<b>lives</b> in this city. _____ <b>has</b> a good teacher.

Exercise 1. Use the correct form of the verbs.

My name is Hamid. I ----- (*be*) a university student. I ----- (*study*) physics at Shahid Rajae University in Tehran. I ----- (*have*) many interesting classes, there. My father ----- (*be*) a carpenter. He ----- (*have*) a workshop in Shiraz. He ----- (*work*) very hard. He ----- (*be*) a very active person. My mother ----- (*be*) a housewife. I ----- (*have*) a brother and a sister. My sister ----- (*study*) mathematics at Sharif University. She ----- (*live*) in a dorm. I ----- (*live*) in a dorm, too. We ----- (*go*) to Shiraz together when we ----- (*be*) on holidays. Our parents ----- (*become*) very happy when we ----- (*go*) there. My mother ..... (*prepare*) delicious food for us and ----- (*try*) to make us happy. We ----- (*be*) a happy family.

Exercise 2. Match **I** with **II**. Put a, b, c, . . . in parentheses. Use the *simple present tense* of the verbs given. The first one is done for you.

*fly – look after – sell – translate*  
*repair – cut – write – work*

**I**

**II**

- |                                 |              |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Ali is a pilot.              | ( <i>f</i> ) | a. He . . . . . for a newspaper.     |
| 2. Mehdi is a mechanic.         | ( )          | b. He . . . . . short stories.       |
| 3. Fred is a journalist.        | ( )          | c. I . . . . . people in a hospital. |
| 4. Sima is a hairdresser.       | ( )          | d. They . . . . . things.            |
| 5. Mr. Smith is an interpreter. | ( )          | e. She . . . . . hair.               |
| 6. I'm a nurse.                 | ( )          | f. He . . <i>flies</i> . . a plane.  |
| 7. I'm a receptionist.          | ( )          | g. He . . . . . cars.                |
| 8. Those are shop assistants.   | ( )          | h. I . . . . . in a hotel.           |

A2. Questions and positive short answers			
<b>Do</b> I you we they the boys	<b>live in this</b> city?	<b>Yes,</b>	you I we <b>do.</b> they
<b>Does</b> Mina she Rahim he	<b>have a good</b> teacher?		she <b>does.</b> he

Exercise 3. Change into question. Follow the examples.

Mina has tea for breakfast.

*Does Mina have tea for breakfast?*

Mr. and Mrs. Jones go for a walk together.

*Do Mr. and Mrs. Jones go for a walk together?*

1. We live in a one-bedroom apartment.
2. Iran and Syria have very good relations.
3. I get up at 6 every morning.
4. Mr. and Mrs. Hashemi travel in the summer.
5. Iran has a population of over 60,000,000.
6. The students understand the lesson easily.
7. I am a student at this university.
8. The teacher arrives here at 10.

Exercise 4. Change into question. Then give positive short answers.

1. George has a camera.
2. The books are on the shelf.