

A Sample sentences

- A:** Where are you from?
B: I am from Asciano. And my colleagues are from Pisa.
A: I'm sorry. Where is Asciano?
B: It is in Tuscany. It's near Siena.

B Form

The present tense of **to be** has three forms: the positive, the negative and the question.

Positive form		
Subject	Verb	Short form
I	am	I'm
you	are	you're
he/she/it	is	he's/she's/it's
the manager	is	the manager's
the company	is	the company's
we	are	we're
they	are	they're
the managers	are	the managers're
the companies	are	the companies're

Note

The first seven short forms are used in spoken or informal written English; the last two (the managers're etc.) are used in spoken language only.

Negative form		
Subject	Verb	Not
I	am	not
you/we/they	are	not
he/she/it	is	not
the manager/the company	is	not
the managers/the companies	are	not

Question form	
Verb	Subject
am	I?
are	you/we/they?
is	he/she/it?
is	the manager/the company?
are	the managers/the companies?

The negative short forms are:

I'm not, you aren't, he isn't, she isn't, it isn't, we aren't, they aren't

C Uses

Look at these sentences with the verb **to be** in different forms:

Questions

- A:** Are you from New York?
A: Excuse me. Is your name Billy Ray?
A: Am I in the right place? Is this the room for the sales meeting?
A: Where are the main markets for your products?

Positive and negative forms

- B:** No, I'm from Boston.
B: No, it isn't. I'm Millie Ray.
B: Yes, it is.
B: They are in the US and Asia.

TASKS

Exercise 1

In the dialogue below, Peter Hay is talking to Jane Field and Arnold Weiss at a trade fair. Put the verb forms in sentences 1–14 into the correct box. The first one is done for you.

Present positive	Present negative	Present question
1		

- PH:** Hello, I'm Peter Hay. [1] Where are you from? [2]
JF: We're from Seattle in the USA. [3]
PH: Oh, are you American? [4]
JF: I am. [5] But Arnold isn't. [6]
AW: I'm from Austria. [7] But we're from the same company, Inter Corp. [8]
PH: Oh, yes, Inter Corp. What are your names? [9]
JF: My name's Jane Field. [10] This is Arnold Weiss. [11]
PH: Pleased to meet you. Are you in banking? [12]
AW: No, we're not. [13] We're in insurance. [14]

Exercise 2

Complete the spaces. Use short forms where possible.

- This is Dave King. He's an engineer.
- My name's Pierre Lapin. _____ a Sales Manager.
- Mary and Hans are from my department. _____ computer programmers.
- This is Naomi Cox. _____ a research scientist.
- Hello. My name _____ Franz Johann and this _____ Tomas Doll. _____ from Salzburg.
- Ah, Franz and Tomas! _____ very welcome!
- This is our office. It _____ very big.



Exercise 3

Complete the following text about Axdal Electronics. Use a form of **be**.

Axdal leads the way

Axdal Electronics is a world leader in control systems. We _____ suppliers to the car industry. Car manufacturers _____ our only customers. We _____ also suppliers to other industries. AE _____ an international company. Our customers _____ in the USA, Japan and Europe. Our Chief Executive _____ Paul Axdal. 'We _____ a family company and business _____ very good', says Paul.

Transfer

Write short sentences about yourself and some friends. Use different present tense forms of **be**.

ANSWER KEY

TASKS 1

BE (1)

Exercise 1

Present positive	Present negative	Present question
1 3 5 7 8 10 11 14	6 13	2 4 9 12

Exercise 2

2. My name's Pierre Lapin. **I'm** a Sales Manager.
3. Mary and Hans are from my department.
They're computer programmers.
4. This is Naomi Cox. **She's** a research scientist.
5. Hello. My name's Franz Johann and this **is** Tomas Doll. **We're** from Salzburg.
6. Ah, Franz and Tomas! **You're** very welcome!
7. This is our office. It **isn't** very big.

Exercise 3

Axdal Electronics **is** a world leader in control systems. **We are** suppliers to the car industry. Car manufacturers **are not** our only customers. **We are** also suppliers to other industries. AE **is** an international company. Our customers **are** in the USA, Japan and Europe. Our Chief Executive **is** Paul Axdal. 'We **are** a family company and business **is** very good', says Paul.