

CAMBRIDGE

Basic Grammar *in use*

THIRD
EDITION

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Self-study
reference and
practice for
students of
North American
English

with answers

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-ing and to . . .

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am/is/are

A

I'm 22.

My name **is** Lisa.

I'm **not** married.

I'm American. I'm from Chicago.

My favorite color **is** blue.

I'm a student.

My favorite sports **are** tennis and swimming.

My father **is** a doctor, and my mother **is** a journalist.

I'm interested in art.

Lisa

B

Positive			Negative		
I	am	(I'm)	I	am not	(I'm not)
he	is	(he's)	he	is not	(he's not or he isn't)
she		(she's)	she		(she's not or she isn't)
it		(it's)	it		(it's not or it isn't)
we	are	(we're)	we	are not	(we're not or we aren't)
you		(you're)	you		(you're not or you aren't)
they		(they're)	they		(they're not or they aren't)

short forms
short forms

- I'm cold. Can you close the window, please?
- I'm 32 years old. My sister **is** 29.
- Steve **is** sick. He's in bed.
- My brother **is** afraid of dogs.
- It's 10:00. You're late again.
- Ann and I **are** good friends.
- Your keys **are** on the table.
- I'm tired, but I'm **not** hungry.
- Tom **isn't** interested in politics. He's interested in music.
- Jane **isn't** a teacher. She's a student.
- Those people **aren't** Canadian. They're Australian.
- It's sunny today, but it **isn't** warm.



C

that's = that **is** there's = there **is** here's = here **is**

- Thank you. That's very nice of you.
- Look! There's Chris.
- "Here's your key." "Thank you."



Exercises

1.1 Write the short form (*she's / we aren't*, etc.).

1. she is she's 3. it is not _____ 5. I am not _____
 2. they are _____ 4. that is _____ 6. you are not _____

1.2 Write *am, is, or are*.

1. The weather is nice today. 5. Look! There _____ Carol.
 2. I _____ not rich. 6. My brother and I _____ good tennis players.
 3. This bag _____ heavy. 7. Amy _____ at home. Her children _____ at school.
 4. These bags _____ heavy. 8. I _____ a taxi driver. My sister _____ a nurse.

1.3 Complete the sentences.

1. Steve is sick. He's _____ in bed.
 2. I'm not hungry, but _____ thirsty.
 3. Mr. Thomas is a very old man. _____ 98.
 4. These chairs aren't beautiful, but _____ comfortable.
 5. The weather is nice today. _____ warm and sunny.
 6. "_____ late." "No, I'm not. I'm early!"
 7. Catherine isn't at home. _____ at work.
 8. "_____ your coat." "Oh, thank you very much."

1.4 Look at Lisa's sentences in 1A. Now write sentences about yourself.

1. (name?) My _____ 5. (favorite color or colors?) _____
 2. (from?) I _____ My _____
 3. (age?) I _____ 6. (interested in ...?) _____
 4. (job?) I _____ I _____

1.5 Write sentences for the pictures. Use:

afraid angry cold hot hungry ~~thirsty~~



1. She's thirsty. 3. He _____ 5. _____
 2. They _____ 4. _____ 6. _____

1.6 Write true sentences, positive or negative. Use *is/isn't* or *are/aren't*.

1. (it / hot today) It's hot today. OR It isn't hot today.
 2. (it / windy today) It _____
 3. (my hands / cold) My _____
 4. (Brazil / a very big country) _____
 5. (diamonds / cheap) _____
 6. (Toronto / in the United States) _____

Write true sentences, positive or negative. Use *I'm / I'm not*.

7. (tired) I'm tired. OR I'm not tired.
 8. (hungry) I _____
 9. (a good swimmer) _____
 10. (interested in politics) _____

am/is/are (questions)

A

Positive		Question	
I	am	am	I?
he	is		he?
she			she?
it			it?
we	are		we?
you			you?
they			they?



What's your name?

David.

Are you married?

No, I'm single.

How old are you?

25.

Are you a student?

Yes, I am.



- "Am I late?" "No, **you're** on time."
- "Is your mother at home?" "No, **she's** out."
- "Are your parents at home?" "No, **they're** out."
- "Is it cold in your room?" "Yes, a little."
- **Your shoes are** nice. **Are they** new?

We say:

- **Is she** at home? / **Is your mother** at home? (*not* Is at home your mother?)
- **Are they** new? / **Are your shoes** new? (*not* Are new your shoes?)

B

Where ...? / What ...? / Who ...? / How ...? / Why ...?

- **Where is** your mother? Is she at home?
- "**Where are** you from?" "Canada."
- "**What color is** your car?" "It's red."
- "**How old is** Joe?" "He's 24."
- "**How are** your parents?" "They're fine."
- These postcards are nice. **How much are** they?
- This hotel isn't very good. **Why is** it so expensive?

what's = what is who's = who is how's = how is where's = where is

- **What's** your phone number? ■ **Who's** that man?
- **Where's** Lucy? ■ **How's** your father?

C

Short answers

Yes,	I	am.
	he	is.
	she	
	it	
	we	are.
	you	
	they	

No,	I'm	not.
	he's	
	she's	
	it's	
	we're	aren't.
	you're	
	they're	

or

No,	he	isn't.
	she	
	it	
	we	aren't.
	you	
	they	

- "Are you tired?" "**Yes, I am.**"
- "Are you hungry?" "**No, I'm not**, but I'm thirsty."
- "Is your friend Japanese?" "**Yes, he is.**"
- "Are these **your** keys?" "**Yes, they are.**"
- "That's my seat." "**No, it isn't.**"



Exercises

2.1 Find the right answers for the questions.

1. Where's the camera?
2. Is your car blue?
3. Is Linda from London?
4. Am I late?
5. Where's Ann from?
6. What color is your bag?
7. Are you hungry?
8. How is George?
9. Who's that woman?

- a) Toronto.
- b) No, I'm not.
- c) Yes, you are.
- d) My sister.
- e) Black.
- f) No, it's black.
- g) In your bag.
- h) No, she's American.
- i) Fine.

1. g
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

2.2 Make questions with these words.

1. (is / at home / your mother) Is your mother at home ?
2. (your parents / are / how) How are your parents ?
3. (interesting / is / your job) _____ ?
4. (the stores / are / open today) _____ ?
5. (from / where / you / are) _____ ?
6. (interested in sports / you / are) _____ ?
7. (is / near here / the post office) _____ ?
8. (at school / are / your children) _____ ?
9. (you / are / late / why) _____ ?

2.3 Complete the questions. Use **What ... / Who ... / Where ... / How ...**

1. _____ How are your children?
2. _____ the bus stop?
3. _____ your children?
4. _____ these oranges?
5. _____ your favorite sport?
6. _____ the man in this photograph?
7. _____ your new shoes?

They're fine.
 At the end of the block.
 Five, six, and ten.
 \$1.50 a pound.
 Skiing.
 That's my father.
 Black.

2.4 Write the questions.



Paul

1. (name?) What's your name?
2. (Australian?) _____
3. (how old?) _____
4. (a teacher?) _____
5. (married?) _____
6. (wife a lawyer?) _____
7. (from?) _____
8. (her name?) _____
9. (how old?) _____

Paul.
 No, I'm Canadian.
 I'm 30.
 No, I'm a lawyer.
 Yes, I am.
 No, she's a teacher.
 She's from Mexico.
 Ana.
 She's 27.

2.5 Write short answers (Yes, I am. / No, he isn't., etc.).

1. Are you married? No, I'm not.
2. Are you thirsty? _____
3. Is it cold today? _____
4. Are your hands cold? _____
5. Is it dark now? _____
6. Are you a teacher? _____

I am doing (present continuous)

A



She's eating.
She isn't reading.



It's raining.
The sun isn't shining.



They're running.
They aren't walking.

The present continuous is:

am/is/are + doing/eating/running/writing, etc.

I	am (not)	-ing
he she it	is (not)	
we you they	are (not)	

- I'm working. I'm not watching TV.
- Maria is reading a newspaper.
- She isn't eating. (or She's not eating.)
- The phone is ringing.
- We're having dinner.
- You're not listening to me. (or You aren't listening . . .)
- The children are doing their homework.

B

Am/is/are + -ing = something is happening *now*:

I'm working
she's wearing a hat
they're playing baseball
I'm not watching television

past

now

future

- Please be quiet. I'm working. (= I'm working now)
- Look, there's Sarah. She's wearing a brown coat. (= she is wearing it now)
- The weather is nice. It's not raining.
- "Where are the children?" "They're playing in the park."
- (on the phone) We're having dinner now. Can I call you later?
- You can turn off the television. I'm not watching it.

For spelling, see Appendix 5.

come → coming write → writing dance → dancing
run → running sit → sitting swim → swimming
lie → lying

3.1 What are these people doing? Use these verbs to complete the sentences:

~~eat~~ have lie play sit wait



1. She's eating an apple.
2. He _____ for a bus.
3. They _____ soccer.
4. _____ on the floor.
5. _____ breakfast.
6. _____ on the table.

3.2 Complete the sentences. Use these verbs:

build cook leave stand stay swim take ~~work~~

1. Please be quiet. I 'm working .
2. "Where's John?" "He's in the kitchen. He _____ ."
3. "You _____ on my foot." "Oh, I'm sorry."
4. Look! Somebody _____ in the river.
5. We're here on vacation. We _____ at a hotel on the beach.
6. "Where's Sue?" "She _____ a shower."
7. They _____ a new hotel downtown.
8. I _____ now. Goodbye.

3.3 Look at the picture. Write sentences about Jane. Use *She's + -ing* or *She isn't + -ing*.



1. (have dinner) Jane isn't having dinner.
2. (watch television) She's watching television.
3. (sit on the floor) She _____
4. (read a book) _____
5. (play the piano) _____
6. (laugh) _____
7. (wear a hat) _____
8. (write a letter) _____

3.4 What's happening now? Write true sentences.

1. (I / wash / my hair) I'm not washing my hair.
2. (it / snow) It's snowing. OR It isn't snowing.
3. (I / sit / on a chair) _____
4. (I / eat) _____
5. (it / rain) _____
6. (I / study / English) _____
7. (I / listen / to music) _____
8. (the sun / shine) _____
9. (I / wear / shoes) _____
10. (I / read / a newspaper) _____

are you doing? (present continuous questions)

A

Positive			Question		
I	am	doing working going staying, etc.	am	I	doing? working? going? staying?, etc.
he she it	is		is	he she it	
we you they	are		are	we you they	



- “Are you feeling OK?” “Yes, I’m fine, thanks.”
- “Is it raining?” “Yes, take an umbrella.”
- Why are you wearing a coat? It’s not cold.
- “What’s Paul doing?” “He’s reading the newspaper.”
- “What are the children doing?” “They’re watching television.”
- Look, there’s Emily! Where’s she going?
- Who are you waiting for? Are you waiting for Sue?

B

Study the word order:

is/are + subject + -ing			
	Is	he	working today?
Where	Is	Paul	working today? (<i>not</i> Is working Paul today?)
Where	are	they	going?
Where	are	those people	going? (<i>not</i> Where are going those people?)

C

Short answers

Yes,	I	am.	No,	I’m	not.	or	No,	he	isn’t.
	he	is.		he’s				isn’t.	
	she			she’s					
	it			it’s					
we	are.	we’re	aren’t.						
you		you’re							
they		they’re							

- “Are you leaving now?” “Yes, I am.”
- “Is Paul working today?” “Yes, he is.”
- “Is it raining?” “No, it isn’t.”
- “Are your friends staying at a hotel?” “No, they aren’t. They’re staying with me.”