

# Present tenses

## 32 I'm Sam.

I'm Sam. He isn't ready. Are they here?

We use *be*:

- to say who somebody is or what something is: *I'm Sam. That's my ticket.*
- to describe something or somebody: *Your shoes are nice. He's tall.*
- to say where somebody is from: *He's American. We're from Brazil.*
- to talk about people's jobs: *She's a teacher. My father's a doctor.*
- to talk about somebody's age: *I'm nineteen. Sally's twenty one.*
- to say how we feel: *We're tired. He's angry.*
- to say where somebody or something is: *She's at home. Your bag's on the chair.*
- to talk about somebody's health: *I'm fine. Kate's ill.*

Affirmative	Negative	Question
I'm (am)	I'm not (am not)	Am I?
he/she/it's (is)	he/she/it isn't (is not)	Is he/she/it?
you/we/they're (are)	you/we/they aren't (are not)	Are you/we/they?

Short answers	Yes, I am.	Yes, he/she/it is.	Yes, you/we/they are.
	No, I'm not.	No, he/she/it isn't.	No, you/we/they aren't.

▶▶ See Appendix 11: Short forms of verbs, page 171.

## PRACTICE

32a Complete what Richard says. Use *am*, *is* or *are*.

My name (0) ..... *is* ..... Richard. I (1) ..... twenty one. I (2) ..... a student at Bristol University. Bristol (3) ..... a big city in the west of England. My parents (4) ..... from Nigeria but I (5) ..... British. My two brothers (6) ..... lawyers and my sister (7) ..... an accountant. My brothers and sister (8) ..... married but I (9) ..... single. I have a niece, too. She (10) ..... three.

**32b** Correct the sentences. Use the short forms of *be*.

- |   |                                 |  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 0 | A: She's Japanese. (Korean)     | B: No, <i>she isn't Japanese. She's Korean</i> . |
| 1 | A: We're late. (early)          | B: No, .....                                     |
| 2 | A: They're from Italy. (Poland) | B: No, .....                                     |
| 3 | A: You're ill. (fine)           | B: No, .....                                     |
| 4 | A: He's a journalist. (doctor)  | B: No, .....                                     |
| 5 | A: I'm fat. (thin)              | B: No, .....                                     |

**32c** Complete the conversation. Use *be* and the words in brackets.

- A: (0) *Are you and Teri* ..... (you and Teri) in the same band?  
 B: No, (00) *we aren't* .....
- A: (1) ..... (you) the singer in your band?  
 B: No, (2) ..... I'm the drummer.
- A: (3) ..... (Kim) the singer?  
 B: Yes. And Laura's the guitarist.
- A: Really? (4) ..... (Laura and Kim) sisters?  
 B: No, (5) ..... They're friends.
- A: Oh. So, (6) ..... (your gig) on Saturday at the KoolKlub?  
 B: No, (7) .....
- A: Where (8) ..... (it)?  
 B: It's at the T8, at 9.30.
- A: And (9) ..... (you) ready for it?  
 B: Yes, (10) .....
- A: Good luck then!  
 B: Thanks.

**32d** Complete the e-mail. Use *be*.

