

ROBERT J. DIXSON  
GRADED EXERCISES IN  
ENGLISH

A NEW REVISED EDITION



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# TO BE

## Present Tense

I am	}	we are
you are		you are
he is		they are
she is		
it is		

---

*Supply the correct form of the present tense of to be as in the example.*

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ a good student.  
(She is a good student.)
2. They \_\_\_\_\_ old friends.
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ a student.
4. John \_\_\_\_\_ absent from class today.
5. We \_\_\_\_\_ both students.
6. The weather today \_\_\_\_\_ good.
7. The sky \_\_\_\_\_ clear.
8. Henry and John \_\_\_\_\_ brothers.
9. She and I \_\_\_\_\_ cousins.
10. I \_\_\_\_\_ sick today.
11. She \_\_\_\_\_ a businesswoman.
12. You \_\_\_\_\_ a lawyer.
13. Today \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday.
14. She and John \_\_\_\_\_ both good students.
15. The policeman on the corner \_\_\_\_\_ busy with the traffic.
16. You \_\_\_\_\_ old friends.

# TO BE

## Negatives and Questions

Form the negative of *to be* by placing *not* after the verb.

I am a student.

I am *not* a student.

Form questions with *to be* by placing the verb before the subject.

They are absent from class today.

*Are* they absent from class today?

Why *are* they absent from class today?

---

A. *Change the following sentences from affirmative to negative as in the example.*

1. She is in Europe now.  
(*She isn't in Europe now.*)
2. You are angry.
3. He and she are cousins.
4. He is very serious.
5. Both sisters are tall.
6. She is a clever girl.
7. They are members of the country club.
8. He is a good tennis player.
9. Elaine is a pilot with American Airlines.
10. The sky is very cloudy today.
11. The office of the principal is on the first floor.
12. It is cold today.
13. She is in her office.
14. It is a good movie.
15. The stamps are in my desk.
16. He is a smart boy.

B. *Change the sentences in Exercise A from statements to questions as in the example.*

1. She is in Europe now.  
(*Is she in Europe now?*)



# PLURAL NOUNS

Most nouns form their plurals by adding s.

door—doors      teacher—teachers      pen—pens

Nouns ending in s, z, ch, sh, and x form their plurals by adding es.

church—churches      box—boxes      class—classes

Some nouns have irregular plurals.

man—men      foot—feet      child—children  
woman—women      tooth—teeth      mouse—mice

---

A. Give the plural forms of these nouns:

friend	<u>friends</u>	dish	_____
salesman	_____	glass	_____
buzz	_____	player	_____
orange	_____	foot	_____

B. Change the following sentences from singular to plural as in the example.

1. The pencil is on the desk.  
(The pencils are on the desk.)
2. The glass is in the kitchen.
3. It is a new dish.
4. The bus is at the corner.
5. The child is in the garden.
6. The clock is on the wall.
7. The watch is new.
8. It is a good picture.
9. He is a young man.
10. She is a young woman.
11. The dish is broken.
12. The tax is high.

# A/AN

A changes to *an* before any word beginning with a vowel sound.

a book  
an apple

a man  
an orange

a woman  
an umbrella

a hotel  
an hour

---

*Complete the following sentences with a or an.*

1. It is \_\_\_\_\_ lovely day.  
(It is a lovely day.)
2. It is \_\_\_\_\_ old university.
3. He is \_\_\_\_\_ unusual man.
4. It is \_\_\_\_\_ exception to the rule.
5. It is \_\_\_\_\_ long trip, but it is \_\_\_\_\_ easy trip.
6. It is \_\_\_\_\_ large library.
7. It is \_\_\_\_\_ ugly hotel.
8. It is \_\_\_\_\_ pear.
9. He is \_\_\_\_\_ honest man.
10. She is \_\_\_\_\_ happy child.
11. The car is \_\_\_\_\_ used car.
12. It is \_\_\_\_\_ tall tree.
13. It is \_\_\_\_\_ egg.
14. It is \_\_\_\_\_ apple.
15. It is \_\_\_\_\_ old bus.
16. It is \_\_\_\_\_ empty bottle.
17. It is \_\_\_\_\_ hour till lunch.
18. It is \_\_\_\_\_ windy day.
19. The gift is \_\_\_\_\_ new book.
- 4 20. It is \_\_\_\_\_ one-story building.

# TO HAVE

## Present Tense

I have	}	we have
you have		you have
he has		they have
she has		
it has		

---

*Complete the following sentences with the correct form of to have.*

1. You \_\_\_\_\_ a new car.  
(You have a new car.)
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ one sister and two brothers.
3. You and I \_\_\_\_\_ many things in common.
4. John \_\_\_\_\_ a new wristwatch.
5. We \_\_\_\_\_ many friends in New York.
6. Helen \_\_\_\_\_ a headache.
7. Grace \_\_\_\_\_ a date with George tonight.
8. They \_\_\_\_\_ strong accents.
9. Both brothers \_\_\_\_\_ red hair.
10. The dog \_\_\_\_\_ a long tail.
11. The office \_\_\_\_\_ three large windows.
12. I \_\_\_\_\_ a charge account at the department store.
13. Both children \_\_\_\_\_ bad colds.
14. Dr. Smith \_\_\_\_\_ many patients.
15. Ms. Jacobson, the lawyer, \_\_\_\_\_ many clients.
16. We \_\_\_\_\_ a large library at school.
17. The secretary \_\_\_\_\_ a new typewriter.
18. The building \_\_\_\_\_ two entrances.
19. I \_\_\_\_\_ brown eyes.
20. You \_\_\_\_\_ green eyes.

# SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

The simple present tense describes an action which goes on every day or all the time.

I work	we work
you work	you work
he works	} they work
she works	
it works	

---

*Give the correct form of the present tense for the verb in parentheses.*

1. She (read) the newspaper every day.  
(She reads the newspaper every day.)
2. We (come) to school by bus.
3. I always (walk) to school.
4. You and I (play) in the park every afternoon.
5. I (eat) lunch in the cafeteria every day.
6. Helen (work) very hard.
7. I (like) to sit in the sun.
8. The dog (chase) the cat all around the house.
9. Mr. Smith (work) for Eastern Airlines.
10. Gene generally (sit) at this desk.
11. We always (play) tennis on Saturdays.
12. He always (cook) dinner at home.
13. They (eat) lunch together every day.
14. Some girls (ride) the bus to school.
15. They (take) a lot of trips together.
16. We always (travel) by car.
17. You (attend) church every Sunday.
- 6 18. He (speak) several foreign languages.

# SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

Add *s* to form the 3rd person singular of most verbs. Add *es* instead of *s* in the following cases:

- a) when the verb ends in *o*

go—goes                      do—does

- b) when the verb ends in *s*, *sh*, *ch*, *x*, or *z*

reach—reaches      wash—washes      fix—fixes

- c) when the verb ends in *y* (here, the *y* is changed to *i* before adding *es* if the *y* is preceded by a consonant)

study—studies      cry—cries      marry—marries

---

## A. Give the correct form of the present tense for the verb in parentheses.

1. Pat (go) there twice a week.  
(Pat goes there twice a week.)
2. Herb (do) the work of two people.
3. I always (try) to arrive everywhere on time.
4. George always (try) to do the same thing.
5. The teacher (wish) to speak with you.
6. Mr. Walker (teach) English and mathematics.
7. They (go) to the movies twice a week.
8. We (watch) television every night.
9. Mary (play) the piano very well.
10. He (study) in the same class as I.
11. The father (watch) the children in the park.
12. The mother (kiss) both boys good-bye every morning.
13. I often (catch) cold.
14. Helen also (catch) cold very often.
15. She (do) all the work.
16. She (carry) the books in a briefcase.

## B. Change the subject in each of the following sentences from I to He. Use the correct form of the verb.

1. I like to study.  
(He likes to study.)

# SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

---

2. I work hard.
  3. I'm a good student.
  4. I own a car.
  5. I'm an American.
  6. I enjoy each English class.
  7. I want to learn French.
  8. I have a new wristwatch.
  9. I speak Spanish.
  10. I wish to learn English.
  11. I watch television every night.
  12. I pass Mr. Smith on the street every day.
  13. I always go to school by bus.
  14. I try to learn ten new words every day.
  15. I do a lot of favors for Pauline.
  16. I play the violin very well.
  17. I have two brothers and two sisters.
  18. I always sit at this desk.
  19. I do my homework assignments in the evening.
  20. I study English three times a week.
- C. *Change the subject of each sentence in Exercise B to They. Use the correct form of the verb.*
1. I like to study.  
(They like to study.)
- D. *Change the subject of each sentence in Exercise B to She. Use the correct form of the verb.*
1. I like to study.  
(She likes to study.)

# PLURAL NOUNS

Nouns that end in *y* form their plurals in one of two ways:

if a vowel precedes the *y*, add *s*

key—keys      toy—toys      tray—trays

if a consonant precedes the *y*, change the *y* to *i* and add *es*

city—cities      lady—ladies      country—countries

Most nouns that end in *f* or *fe* form their plurals by changing their endings to *ves*.

wife—wives      leaf—leaves      half—halves

Nouns that end in *o* and are preceded by a consonant form their plurals by adding *es*.

potato—potatoes      hero—heroes

---

*Change the subjects of the following sentences from singular to plural. Make any necessary changes in the verb form.*

1. The child plays in the park every morning.  
(*The children play in the park every morning.*)
2. The knife is next to the plate.
3. The dish is on the table.
4. I have a new pen.
5. The plane leaves from the airport.
6. The bus stops at the corner.
7. The box is empty.
8. The church is near here.
9. The class begins at nine o'clock.
10. The man knows the lessons well.
11. I enjoy the work.
12. She is not afraid of dogs.
13. The boy does the work well.
14. The woman is ill.
15. The glass is broken.
16. The watch runs well.
17. The clerk is very polite.
18. The key is on the table.



# POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

my	our
your	your
his	} their
her	
its	

I like *my* teacher.  
She washes *her* car.

We eat *our* dinner at six o'clock.  
They are in *their* classroom.

---

*Complete the following sentences with the possessive adjective which refers to the subject of the sentence.*

1. She knows \_\_\_\_\_ lesson well.  
(She knows her lesson well.)
2. I also know \_\_\_\_\_ lesson well.
3. Gail likes \_\_\_\_\_ English class very much.
4. I do \_\_\_\_\_ homework on the bus every day.
5. You always get good marks on \_\_\_\_\_ examinations.
6. Both girls prepare \_\_\_\_\_ lessons well.
7. Mr. Bach drives to work in \_\_\_\_\_ car.
8. Mary and I do \_\_\_\_\_ homework together.
9. Grace writes a letter to \_\_\_\_\_ aunt every week.
10. The dog wags \_\_\_\_\_ tail when it sees \_\_\_\_\_ dinner dish.
11. The children take \_\_\_\_\_ toys to the park.
12. I write the new words in \_\_\_\_\_ notebook.
13. Each cat has \_\_\_\_\_ own dish for food and water.
14. Both boys ride \_\_\_\_\_ bicycles to school.
15. You and Henry spend a lot of time on \_\_\_\_\_ homework.
16. We enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ English class.
- 10 17. She always does well on all \_\_\_\_\_ examinations.

# THERE IS, THERE ARE

We use *there is* with singular nouns; we use *there are* with plural nouns.

*There is* a book on the table.

*There are* books on the table.

*There is* one man in the room.

*There are* several men in the room.

---

Complete the following sentences with *There is* or *There are*.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ no Australians in this class.  
(There are no Australians in this class.)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ someone at the door.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of students absent today.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ a mailbox on the corner.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ three lamps in the room.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ two large windows in the room.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ only one door.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of English classes in our school.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ nobody in the room now.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ a letter on the table for you.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ several beautiful parks in this city.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ twelve months in a year.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ only one cloud in the sky.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ no one at home.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ dishes but no silverware on the table.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ no stores in this section of town.