

# The English Notebook

*Exercises for Mastering the Essential Structures*



Richard Yorkey



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## **PREFACE**

These eighty-eight exercises have been created to help intermediate-level students of English as a Second/Foreign Language practice and reinforce some of the basic grammatical forms and sentence patterns of English. They have been ordered in what seems to me to be a grammatically logical sequence. While pedagogical logic may differ, of course, care should be taken if the exercises are used in some other, equally logical order. Often one exercise is built on the preceding one or a definite sequence of related exercises occurs. This, however, should be evident in the table of contents.

If desired, many of the exercises can be done orally. All of them can be written, either by writing in the book itself or by copying and completing the exercises on paper to be handed in.

To provide a realistic context for language practice, as well as to stimulate interest in what has traditionally been an uninteresting task, the exercises dramatize the public lives of students in an adult English class. I hope that these fictitious students will make the exercises more enjoyable for the real students who use them.

I am happy to express my appreciation to Brian Buniak for his delightful drawings and to acknowledge the invaluable editorial support of Jacqueline Flamm and Leland Northam. I'm so pleased they joined the party.

*Richard Yorkey*

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QUESTION		
SUBJECT	BE	COMPLEMENT
I	am	a student.
You	are	
He	is	
She		
It		
		a classroom.
We	are	students.
You		
They		

### EXAMPLES

I'm a student.\*  
 Are you the teacher?  
 He's from Puerto Rico.\*  
 Is she from Brazil?  
 This is the school.  
 Is this my classroom?  
 Ms. O'Connor is our teacher.  
 We're her students.\*

Complete the following sentences with the correct present form of be (am, is, are). Contractions are appropriate in the sentences marked with a dot (\*).

1. Ms. O'Connor is an English teacher.
- 2. She says, "Good evening. I' m your English teacher, Kathy O'Connor.
- 3. "You \_\_\_\_\_ all students in my English class."
- 4. "We \_\_\_\_\_ going to meet every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings from seven to nine o'clock."
5. Hernando Perez \_\_\_\_\_ a student in the class.
- 6. He \_\_\_\_\_ from Puerto Rico.
7. Sarah and Saul Gordon \_\_\_\_\_ also students in the class.
- 8. They \_\_\_\_\_ married.
9. Fuad Sabri comes late to class. He asks Ms. O'Connor, "\_\_\_\_\_ this English 100?"
10. Ms. O'Connor answers, "Yes, it \_\_\_\_\_."
11. She asks, "\_\_\_\_\_ you in this class?"
12. Fuad answers, "Yes, I \_\_\_\_\_."
13. "Class, this \_\_\_\_\_ Fuad Sabri."
14. Hernando asks Ms. O'Connor, "\_\_\_\_\_ he from the Middle East?"
- 15. "I \_\_\_\_\_ from Lebanon."

\*Contractions are used in spoken and informal written English. They are written this way: *I'm, you're, she's, he's, it's, we're, they're.*

## QUESTION


SUBJECT	BE	COMPLEMENT
I	was	a student last year.
You	were	
He	was	
She		
It		
		a classroom last year.
We	were	students last year.
You		
They		

## EXAMPLES

I was in New York yesterday.  
 Were you in New York too?  
 This was our classroom last year.  
 Was Ms. O'Connor your teacher last year?  
 We were in another class.  
 Were they in English 100?

Complete the following sentences with the correct past tense form of be (was or were).

- There were 18 students in Ms. O'Connor's class last night.
- Four students \_\_\_\_\_ from Hong Kong.
- \_\_\_\_\_ any students from Latin America?
- One man \_\_\_\_\_ from Nicaragua.
- And two girls \_\_\_\_\_ from Venezuela.
- One woman \_\_\_\_\_ from Brazil.
- \_\_\_\_\_ she from Rio de Janeiro?
- No, she \_\_\_\_\_ from São Paulo.
- \_\_\_\_\_ any students from Europe?
- Yes, one young student \_\_\_\_\_ from Greece.
- \_\_\_\_\_ there a student from Vietnam in the school?
- Yes, there \_\_\_\_\_ two.
- And one old man \_\_\_\_\_ from Italy.
- Ms. O'Connor \_\_\_\_\_ happy with her new class.
- The students \_\_\_\_\_ also pleased with Ms. O'Connor.



SUBJECT	BE	MPLEMENT
I	{ am was	happy.
You	{ are were	
He She It	{ is was	
We You They	{ are were	

## EXAMPLES

Keiko is in New York now.  
 She is not in Japan.  
 She was in Japan last year.  
 She was not in Tokyo. She was in Osaka.  
 Ms. O'Connor's students are good.  
 They are not lazy.  
 Last year they were in Mr. Dodd's class.  
 They were not in Ms. O'Connor's class.

Correct each of the following statements. First make it negative, and then add a correct statement.

- Ms. O'Connor is a student.

*Ms. O'Connor is not a student. She is the teacher.*

- New York is the capital of the United States.

---

- Napoleon was a famous Mexican emperor.

---

- During the American Revolution, the colonists were angry with the Egyptian king.

---



---

- 1, 2, 3, and 4 are letters of the alphabet.

---

- Hernando Perez is from Hong Kong.

---

7. Cleopatra was an ugly woman.

---

8. Hoa and her husband Thieu are in Vietnam now.

---

9. Shakespeare was an excellent British scientist.

---

10. The Marx Brothers were famous musicians.

---

The negative contraction is formed in one of two ways: (1) SUBJECT + *be* can be contracted, with *not* in the full form; or (2) except for *I*, *be* + *not* can be contracted.

I'm	not . . .
You're	
He's She's It's	
We're You're They're	

I	am not* wasn't . . .
You	aren't . . . weren't
He She It	isn't . . . wasn't
We You They	aren't . . . weren't

Complete the following sentences with a correct negative contraction of *be*.

1. The Evening School isn't the only school for English in New York.
2. Sarah and Saul \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States last year.
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ the teacher. Ms. O'Connor is.
4. Hernando \_\_\_\_\_ in class yesterday.
5. Three other students \_\_\_\_\_ in class today.
6. For example, Sylvie \_\_\_\_\_ here today.

\*This form is never contracted. *Ain't* is sometimes heard but it is considered nonstandard, uneducated speech.

7. I \_\_\_\_\_ sick yesterday, but Hernando was.
8. The students \_\_\_\_\_ very good in English.
9. It \_\_\_\_\_ easy to become an Eagle Boy Scout.
10. That's why I \_\_\_\_\_ a Boy Scout.

Negative questions with *be* use the second way of contracting in spoken English.

Aren't you a student?	No, I'm not.
Wasn't it a beautiful day yesterday?	Yes, it was.
Aren't you in your class, Mr. St. Dennis?	No, you aren't.

Complete the following sentences with the correct negative form of *be*.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Celia in São Paulo last year?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ today the first day of the month?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Lee's parents sorry to see their son leave Hong Kong?
4. \_\_\_\_\_ I the best student in class?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Sarah and Saul funny?

# 4

## STATEMENT

One student *is* in the room.

One student *was* in the room.

17 students *are* here.

*There is* one student in the room.

*There was* one student in the room.

*There are* 17 students here.

## QUESTION

Is there one teacher in the room?

Yes, there *is*.

Are there 17 students here?

Yes, there *are*.

Were there 20 students last year?

Yes, there *were*.

Is there a cat in the room?

No, there's *not* (or *there isn't*).

Are there any babies in the room?

No, there *are not* (or *there aren't*).

Was there an exam last night?

No, there *wasn't*.

\**Aren't I* is the only commonly used spoken form. *Am I not* (never *amn't*) is rarely heard in American English.

Complete the following sentences with there is/was, there are/were or the question form.

1. Are there 27 students in the class? No, there aren't.
2. There are only seventeen.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ a clock on the wall? Yes, \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ a rug on the floor? No, \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ a student from Nigeria last year? Yes, \_\_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ any students from Kenya last year? No, \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ a rainstorm last night? \_\_\_\_\_.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ one student from Lebanon this year. \_\_\_\_\_ any students from Lebanon last year?
9. \_\_\_\_\_ a TV on in the room? \_\_\_\_\_.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ a blackboard in the room? Yes, \_\_\_\_\_. In fact, \_\_\_\_\_ two blackboards in the room. But \_\_\_\_\_ only one wastepaper basket.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ any students from Germany in the class this year? No, \_\_\_\_\_.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ last year? Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ two.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ many students studying in North America this year? Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ more this year than last.
14. Tonight \_\_\_\_\_ two new students from Colombia. \_\_\_\_\_ any students from Colombia last year?
15. \_\_\_\_\_ a student from Greece here now? Yes, \_\_\_\_\_.  
His name is Nikos.

Change each of the following statements into questions. Write a short answer.

1. There are about seventeen students in the class.

Are there about seventeen students in the class? Yes, there are

2. Mr. Parkhurst is the teacher.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Hoa Thi Truong is a student in the class.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. There are other students from Vietnam.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Saul and Sarah Gordon are married.

\_\_\_\_\_



6. There's a student in the class from Lebanon.

---

7. There was a student from Lebanon last year.

---

8. Keiko Nakamura is from Japan.

---

9. There is one student from Quebec.

---

10. Her name is Sylvie Lafrance.

---

11. She is studying English in Ms. O'Connor's class.

---

12. There are no students from Chile.

---

13. There was a student from Chile last year.

---

14. The students are happy to have Ms. O'Connor for a teacher.

---

15. The exercise is now complete.

---