The verb to be

English A1 · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
to be /tə biː/	We use **to be** (am, is, are) to say who someone is. (am、is、are)
I am a student /aɪəm ə ˈstjuːdənt/	"**I am a student**," said Tom. " "
negative /ˈnegətɪv/	"I am not tired" is a **negative** sentence. "I am not tired"
shape-shifter /ʃeɪp ˈʃɪftə/	In the story, the **shape-shifter** turns into a cat.
plural /ˈplʊərəl/	"Desks" is the **plural** of "desk". "Desks" "desk"
contractions /kənˈtrækʃnz/	"I'm" and "she's" are **contractions**. "I'm" "she's"
register /ˈredʒɪstə/	Say "Hello" to a teacher and "Hi" to a friend: this is a change of **register**. "Hello" "Hi"
informal /ɪnˈfɔːml/	"Hi!" is **informal**. "Hi!"
formal /ˈfɔːml/	"Good morning, Mr Lee" is **formal**. "Good morning, Mr Lee"
apostrophe /əˈpɒstrəfi/	The **apostrophe** in "don't" shows a missing letter. "don't"
flips /flɪps/	In a question, the order **flips**: "you are" becomes "are you". "you are" "are you"
Are you a student? /ɑː juː ə ˈstjuːdənt/	"**Are you a student?**" "Yes, I am." " "" "
You are really a student? /juː ɑː ˈrɪəlɪ ə ˈstjuːdənt/	"**You are really a student?**" "Yes, really!" " "" "

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adjectives /ˈædʒɪktɪvz/	"Big" and "red" are **adjectives**. "Big" "red"
He is very tall /hiː ɪz ˈveri tɔːl/	**He is very tall**: he can touch the ceiling.
He is a teacher /hiː ɪz ə ˈtiːtʃə/	**He is a teacher** at my school.
He is very happy /hiː ɪz ˈveri ˈhæpi/	**He is very happy** today.