

Verb Summary

The BE verb Present and Past

BE is a special verb in English, and it has different rules from other verbs. Here are some differences that are easy to see:

1. BE has no action. Most other verbs (go, study, eat, sleep) show action
2. BE has many forms. They change with different subjects

I am	You are	He/She/It is
We are	You (all) are	They are

3. BE has different forms (irregular) for past tense

I was	He/She It was	
We were	You were	They were

There are other important points to remember about BE

1. Be verbs can be followed by these 3 kinds of words: nouns, adjectives, and propositions
 1. Noun: name of person, place, or thing: Who? What?
Cathy is a teacher.
Yoko is a student.
EdCC is a community college.
 2. Adjective: tells about the noun: What kind of...? How is...?
Rashed is intelligent.
Lisa is tall.
Grammar is easy.
 3. Preposition: tells about when or where
Grammar is at 12:00.
Cathy is from California.
We are in MLT 141.

2. Making questions is different when BE is the verb. We don't need a helping verb.
We use BE at the beginning of a yes/no question

He is intelligent.
IS he intelligent?

We use BE after the question word

He is at home.
Where IS he?

He is a student?
What IS his job? (What does he do/)

Class is at 12:00
What time IS class?

2. Making negatives with BE is also different. We don't need a helping verb.
We use the BE verb + not

I'm not really crazy.	am not-----'m not
You aren't a lazy student.	are bit-----aren't
She isn't here today.	is not-----isn't
We aren't homesick yet.	
You aren't lonely.	
They aren't students.	