

# The verb "to be & Personal Information

## The verb "to be

The verb "to be" is the most fundamental building block of English, and it's essential for exchanging personal information, which is at the heart of tourism and travel.

Mastering the verb "to be" allows you to:

- ❖ Introduce yourself (I am...)
- ❖ State your origin (I am from...)
- ❖ Ask for locations (Where is...?)
- ❖ Describe your state (I am lost/happy/tired)
- ❖ Identify objects (This is my bag)
- ❖ **What is a "to be" verb?**

- A verb that is used in a number of ways in the English language, including linking, passive construction, and auxiliary
- Has many forms, including is, am, are, was, were, be, being, and been

### Linking Verbs

• "To be" verbs are used as linking verbs to describe the role or description of the subject. They are called this because they link the subject and the subject complement.

- **Examples:** They are late to the party.
- He was not very happy.
- Driving a car is faster than walking.

### Auxiliary verbs

- Used with progressive and progressive perfect tenses
- Present progressive: The dog is barking. • Past progressive: The dog was barking. • Future progressive: The dog will be barking. • Present perfect progressive: The dog has been barking for five minutes. • Past perfect progressive: The dog had been barking when I got home. • Future perfect progressive: The dog will have been barking for 20 minutes by the time I finish this workshop!

Corson, Tim and Rebecca Smollett. "Passive Voice: When To Use It and When To Avoid It." University College Writing Centre. University of Toronto, n.d. Web. 12 Nov, 2014.  
"Active/Passive Verb Forms." Englishpage.com. Language Dynamics, n.d. Web. 12 Nov, 2014.

### 1. The Verb "To Be" Present Tense:

- I am (I'm)
- You/We/They are (You're, We're, They're)
- He/She/It is (He's, She's, It's)

| Positive        | Short form      | Negative            | Short form         |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| I <b>am</b>     | I' <b>m</b>     | I <b>am not</b>     | I' <b>m not</b>    |
| You <b>are</b>  | You' <b>re</b>  | You <b>are not</b>  | You <b>aren't</b>  |
| He <b>is</b>    | He' <b>s</b>    | He <b>is not</b>    | He <b>isn't</b>    |
| She <b>is</b>   | She' <b>s</b>   | She <b>is not</b>   | She <b>isn't</b>   |
| It <b>is</b>    | It' <b>s</b>    | It <b>is not</b>    | It <b>isn't</b>    |
| We <b>are</b>   | We' <b>re</b>   | We <b>are not</b>   | We <b>aren't</b>   |
| They <b>are</b> | They' <b>re</b> | They <b>are not</b> | They <b>aren't</b> |

## 2.The Verb "To Be Past Tense:

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