

The Verb "To Be": Contractions

A1 English Worksheet – Lesson 3: I'm, you're, he's, she's, it's, we're, they're

Language Focus

In spoken and informal English, we usually join the subject and the verb be together. This is called a contraction.

I am

I'm

I'm on holiday.

he is / she is / it is

he's / she's / it's

He's my brother. She's a nurse. It's sunny.

you are / we are / they are **you're / we're / they're** *You're welcome. We're happy. They're here.*

Remember: the apostrophe shows where a letter is missing. "I'm" = "I" + "am" with the "a" replaced by an apostrophe. Contractions mean exactly the same as the full form – we just use them more often when speaking or writing informally.

Listening: A Postcard from Holiday

Context: writing about a holiday

Listen to your teacher read this aloud, or read it yourself. Then complete Exercise 1.

Hi! I'm on holiday in Greece right now. It's a beautiful island.

My hotel is small, but it's very comfortable.

The weather is perfect. It's sunny every day.

My sister is here with me. She's very happy because she's a big fan of the sea.

Our parents are here too. They're at the beach right now.

We're all having a wonderful time.

My brother James is joining us tomorrow. He's very excited about the trip.

You're always welcome to visit Greece too.

It's a fantastic place for a holiday!

1. True or False

Context: A Postcard from Holiday (from the listening)

1. The writer is on holiday in Spain. True / False
2. It's sunny every day. True / False
3. The writer's sister is unhappy. True / False
4. The parents are at the beach. True / False
5. James is already in Greece. True / False

2. Multiple Choice

Context: a text to a friend

1. ___ having a great weekend!
I'm / You're
2. ___ so kind to invite me.
You're / We're
3. ___ my best friend.
He's / They're
4. ___ a lovely city.
It's / We're
5. ___ studying English together.
We're / She's
6. ___ excellent at football.
They're / It's

3. Matching

Context: full form to contraction

Draw a line to match each full form to its contraction.

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 1. I am | <i>he's</i> |
| 2. you are | <i>we're</i> |
| 3. he is | <i>I'm</i> |
| 4. she is | <i>she's</i> |
| 5. we are | <i>you're</i> |

4. Gap Fill

Context: a diary entry

Complete the diary entry with the correct contraction for the words in brackets.

Dear Diary,

_____ (I am) so excited today! _____ (It is) my birthday. My friends are coming over.

_____ (They are) bringing a cake. My mum says _____ (she is) making my favourite

dinner. _____ (We are) going to have a party tonight. _____ (You are) invited too, Diary!

5. Contraction Sort

Sort these contractions into the correct group: I'm, he's, she's, it's, you're, we're, they're

I'm:

he's / she's / it's:

you're / we're / they're:

6. Word Order

Context: weekend plans

Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence.

1. going / I'm / to / the / cinema.
2. meeting / We're / friends / tonight.
3. visiting / She's / her / grandmother.
4. staying / They're / at / home.
5. a / It's / busy / weekend.

7. Right or Wrong?

Context: an online profile

Is the contraction spelled right or wrong? Circle your answer. If it's wrong, write the correct spelling.

1. Shes a nurse from Canada. Right / Wrong: _____
2. I'm a big fan of music. Right / Wrong: _____
3. Their from Australia. Right / Wrong: _____
4. We're both teachers. Right / Wrong: _____
5. Its a lovely photo. Right / Wrong: _____

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A1 Teacher Answer Key – Lesson 3

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1. True or False - Answers

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. The writer is on holiday in Spain. | False |
| 2. It's sunny every day. | True |
| 3. The writer's sister is unhappy. | False |
| 4. The parents are at the beach. | True |
| 5. James is already in Greece. | False |

2. Multiple Choice - Answers

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. ___ having a great weekend! | I'm |
| 2. ___ so kind to invite me. | You're |
| 3. ___ my best friend. | He's |
| 4. ___ a lovely city. | It's |
| 5. ___ studying English together. | We're |
| 6. ___ excellent at football. | They're |

3. Matching - Answers

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 1. I am | I'm |
| 2. you are | you're |
| 3. he is | he's |
| 4. she is | she's |
| 5. we are | we're |

4. Gap Fill - Answers (in order)

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| 1. Blank 1 | I'm |
| 2. Blank 2 | It's |
| 3. Blank 3 | They're |
| 4. Blank 4 | she's |
| 5. Blank 5 | We're |
| 6. Blank 6 | You're |

5. Contraction Sort - Answers

I'm:

I'm

he's / she's / it's:

he's, she's, it's

you're / we're / they're:

you're, we're, they're

6. Word Order - Answers

1. I'm going to the cinema.
2. We're meeting friends tonight.
3. She's visiting her grandmother.
4. They're staying at home.
5. It's a busy weekend.

7. Right or Wrong? - Answers

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Shes a nurse from Canada. | Wrong - She's |
| 2. I'm a big fan of music. | Right |
| 3. Their from Australia. | Wrong - They're |
| 4. We're both teachers. | Right |
| 5. Its a lovely photo. | Wrong - It's |