

Success English Foundations

Beginner • Your First Steps in English

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16 units to take you from your very first words to confident, everyday English — greetings, the verb to be, present and past tenses, questions and much more, with clear explanations, real-life examples and short exercises throughout.

Success Coaching and Education Consultancy

01 Hello, English!

/ 16

Greetings, introductions & the verb to be

GRAMMAR FOCUS

We use the verb to be (am / is / are) to say who we are and to greet people. It changes depending on the subject: I am, you are, he/she/it is, we/you/they are.

- I am (I'm), you are (you're), he/she/it is (he's/she's/it's)
- we are (we're), you are (you're), they are (they're)
- Greetings: Hello! Hi! Good morning! How are you?

EXAMPLES

"Hello! My name is Anna."

"I am from Turkey."

"She is a teacher."

"We are friends."

"How are you? — I'm fine, thanks."

"Nice to meet you!"

"Good morning! Good night!"

"They are students."

MINI VOCABULARY

name — the word people use to call you

friend — a person you like and know well

teacher — a person who teaches at school

student — a person who is learning

morning — the early part of the day

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Complete: "I ____ (be) from Spain."
2. Correct: "She are my sister."
3. Introduce yourself in one sentence.

DID YOU KNOW?

We almost always use short forms in spoken English — I'm, you're, she's — instead of the full I am, you are, she is.

02 Pronouns & Possessives

/ 16

I, you, he — my, your, his

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Subject pronouns (I, you, he, she, it, we, they) show who does the action. Possessive adjectives (my, your, his, her, its, our, their) show who something belongs to.

- Subject pronouns: I, you, he, she, it, we, they
- Possessive adjectives: my, your, his, her, its, our, their
- Possessive adjective + noun: my book, her car

EXAMPLES

"I have a brother. His name is Tom."

"This is my bag."

"Is that your phone?"

"Her house is very big."

"Our school is near the park."

"Their car is red."

"It is a cat. Its tail is long."

"We love our family."

MINI VOCABULARY

brother — a male sibling

sister — a female sibling

family — parents, children and relatives

house — a building where people live

school — a place where children learn

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Complete: "____ (she) bag is on the table."
2. Choose: "This is ____ book." (I / my)
3. Write a sentence about your family using 'our'.

DID YOU KNOW?

Its (possessive) has no apostrophe, but it's (it is) does — a common mistake even for advanced learners!

03 A, An & Plurals

/ 16

Articles and plural nouns

GRAMMAR FOCUS

We use **a** before consonant sounds and **an** before vowel sounds for singular countable nouns. Most nouns add **-s** for the plural, but some have special spelling rules.

- **a** + consonant sound: a dog, a university
- **an** + vowel sound: an apple, an hour
- Plural: book → books, box → boxes, city → cities

EXAMPLES

"I have a dog and a cat."

"She eats an apple every day."

"There are three books on the desk."

"He has two boxes."

"There are many cities in my country."

"It's an umbrella, not a hat."

"We need two chairs."

"Children like toys."

MINI VOCABULARY

apple — a round fruit, often red or green

umbrella — you use it when it rains

box — a container, usually square

city — a large town

child / children — a young person / plural of child

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Choose: "___ orange" (a / an)
2. Write the plural of "city".
3. Write the plural of "box".

DID YOU KNOW?

The plural of child is children, not childs — one of English's irregular plurals you simply have to learn.

04 This, That, These, Those

/ 16

Pointing to people and things

GRAMMAR FOCUS

We use **this/these** for things that are near us, and **that/those** for things that are far away. **This** and **that** are singular; **these** and **those** are plural.

- **this** (singular, near) / **these** (plural, near)
- **that** (singular, far) / **those** (plural, far)
- **This is...** / **These are...** / **That is...** / **Those are...**

EXAMPLES

"This is my pen."

"These are my keys."

"That is your house, over there."

"Those are nice shoes."

"Is this your coat?"

"What are those?"

"This bag is heavy."

"Those birds are beautiful."

MINI VOCABULARY

pen — you use it to write

key — you use it to open a door

coat — a piece of clothing for cold weather

shoes — you wear them on your feet

bird — an animal that can fly

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Choose: "____ (this / these) are my sisters."
2. Complete: "____ is my phone." (near you)
3. Ask a question using 'those'.

DID YOU KNOW?

*We use **this/these** for things close to the speaker, and **that/those** for things farther away — even on the phone: 'Who is that?'*

05 There is / There are

/ 16

Talking about what exists

GRAMMAR FOCUS

We use **there is** with singular and uncountable nouns, and **there are** with plural nouns, to say that something exists or is present in a place.

- **There is** + singular/uncountable noun
- **There are** + plural noun
- **Negative:** **there isn't** / **there aren't**

EXAMPLES

"There is a lamp on the table."

"There are five chairs in the room."

"There isn't any milk in the fridge."

"There aren't any students here."

"Is there a bank near here?"

"Are there any shops on this street?"

"There is some water in the bottle."

"There are two windows in my bedroom."

MINI VOCABULARY

lamp — a light you can turn on

fridge — keeps food cold

bank — a place for money

shop — a place to buy things

bedroom — a room where you sleep

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Complete: "____ a book on the shelf." (there is / there are)
2. Make negative: "There are cats in the garden."
3. Ask: "____ any bread in the kitchen?"

DID YOU KNOW?

'There' in **there is/are** doesn't point to a place — it simply introduces something new into the conversation.

06 Prepositions of Place

/ 16

in, on, under, next to, between

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Prepositions of place tell us where something is. Common ones are in, on, under, next to, between, in front of and behind.

- in = inside something (in the box)
- on = on top of a surface (on the table)
- under, next to, between, in front of, behind

EXAMPLES

"The keys are in my bag."

"The cup is on the table."

"The cat is under the bed."

"The shop is next to the bank."

"The park is between the school and the station."

"The car is in front of the house."

"The dog is behind the door."

"My phone is on the sofa."

MINI VOCABULARY

bag — you carry things in it

cup — you drink from it

bed — you sleep on it

sofa — you sit on it

station — where trains or buses stop

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Complete: "The book is ____ the table." (on / in)
2. Describe where your phone is now.
3. Complete: "The bank is ____ the shop and the café." (between)

DID YOU KNOW?

In British English we say 'in the picture', but 'on the wall' — small prepositions like these just need practice and memory.

07 Present Simple

/ 16

Daily routines and facts

GRAMMAR FOCUS

We use the Present Simple for habits, routines and general facts.
Add -s or -es to the verb for he/she/it.

- I/you/we/they + verb: I work, they play
- he/she/it + verb-s: he works, she plays
- Negative: don't / doesn't + verb

EXAMPLES

"I work in an office."

"She works in a hospital."

"We live in London."

"He doesn't like coffee."

"They don't have a car."

"The sun rises in the east."

"My mother cooks dinner every day."

"I don't smoke."

MINI VOCABULARY

office — a place where people work

hospital — a place where sick people go

live — to have your home somewhere

cook — to prepare food

dinner — the evening meal

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Complete: "He ____ (work) in a bank."
2. Make negative: "She likes tea."
3. Write one true sentence about your daily routine.

DID YOU KNOW?

Verbs ending in -y after a consonant change to -ies: study → studies, but play → plays (vowel before y stays the same).

08 Present Simple Questions

/ 16

do/does & question words

GRAMMAR FOCUS

We make Present Simple questions with do/does + subject + verb. Question words like what, where, when, who and why go at the beginning of the question.

- Do + I/you/we/they + verb...?
- Does + he/she/it + verb...?
- Wh- questions: What do you do? Where do you live?

EXAMPLES

"Do you like pizza?"

"Does she speak English?"

"What do you do at the weekend?"

"Where does he work?"

"When do you get up?"

"Who is your best friend?"

"Why do you study English?"

"Do they live near you?"

MINI VOCABULARY

pizza — a popular Italian food

weekend — Saturday and Sunday

get up — to leave your bed

best friend — your closest friend

study — to learn something

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Complete: "____ you speak French?" (Do / Does)
2. Make a question: "She works on Monday."
3. Ask a friend "Where do you...?"

DID YOU KNOW?

In questions with does, the main verb loses its -s: 'Does he work?' not 'Does he works?'

09 Can & Can't

/ 16

Talking about ability

GRAMMAR FOCUS

We use **can** to talk about ability — things we know how to do — and **can't** for things we are not able to do. **Can** doesn't change form.

- **can** + verb: I can swim.
- **can't** (cannot) + verb: I can't drive.
- Question: Can you...?

MINI VOCABULARY

swim — to move through water

piano — a musical instrument with keys

ride — to travel using a bike or horse

drive — to control a car

understand — to know the meaning of something

EXAMPLES

"I can speak two languages."

"She can play the piano."

"He can't swim."

"We can't come to the party."

"Can you ride a bike?"

"Can they cook?"

"My brother can drive a car."

"I can't understand this word."

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Complete: "I ____ (can) speak Japanese."
(negative)
2. Ask a question with 'can' about swimming.
3. Write two things you can do well.

DID YOU KNOW?

Can is a modal verb, so it never takes -s: 'she can' is correct, 'she cans' is wrong.

10 Instructions & Imperatives

/ 16

Giving commands and directions

GRAMMAR FOCUS

We use the base form of the verb to give instructions or commands. Add don't before the verb to make a negative instruction.

- Verb (base form): Open the door. Sit down.
- Negative: Don't + verb: Don't touch that.
- Please + imperative is more polite.

EXAMPLES

"Open your book, please."

"Close the window."

"Sit down."

"Don't be late."

"Turn left at the corner."

"Please wait here."

"Don't touch the paintings."

"Listen carefully."

MINI VOCABULARY

open — to move something so it is not closed

close — to shut something

wait — to stay until something happens

listen — to pay attention to sound

carefully — with a lot of attention

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Give an instruction to close a door.
2. Make it negative: "Talk during the exam."
3. Give directions to the nearest shop.

DID YOU KNOW?

Imperatives don't need a subject — we just use the base verb, which is why they sound short and direct.

11 Adjectives

/ 16

Describing people and things

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Adjectives describe nouns and usually come before the noun, or after the verb to be. Adjectives in English don't change for plural or gender.

- adjective + noun: a big house
- to be + adjective: The house is big.
- Adjectives never take -s: two big houses (not bigs)

EXAMPLES

"She has a beautiful smile."

"This is a small room."

"The weather is cold today."

"He is a tall man."

"They are happy children."

"My new phone is expensive."

"This coffee is hot."

"That was a funny film."

MINI VOCABULARY

smile — the expression when you are happy

weather — the condition outside — sun, rain, etc.

tall — having a large height

happy — feeling good

expensive — costing a lot of money

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Describe your best friend using two adjectives.
2. Correct: "She has a red beautiful dress."
3. Complete: "The film was very ____." (your choice)

DID YOU KNOW?

In English, adjectives usually go in a fixed order: opinion, size, age, colour — 'a lovely small old red car'.

12 Present Continuous

/ 16

Actions happening now

GRAMMAR FOCUS

We use the Present Continuous (am/is/are + verb-ing) to talk about actions happening right now, at the moment of speaking.

- am/is/are + verb-ing
- Use: an action happening now
- Negative: is not (isn't) / are not (aren't) + verb-ing

EXAMPLES

"I am reading a book now."

"She is cooking dinner."

"They are playing football."

"We aren't watching TV."

"Is he sleeping?"

"What are you doing?"

"It is raining outside."

"I'm not listening to music right now."

MINI VOCABULARY

read — to look at and understand words

football — a popular team sport

watch — to look at something for a time

sleep — to rest with your eyes closed

rain — water falling from the sky

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Complete: "She ____ (cook) right now."
2. Make a question: "They are working."
3. Describe what you are doing at this moment.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some verbs (like, love, know, want) are not usually used in the continuous form — we say 'I like it', not 'I am liking it'.

13 Telling the Time

/ 16

Clock times & daily routine

GRAMMAR FOCUS

We use special expressions to tell the time in English: o'clock, half past, quarter past/to, and past/to for minutes.

- It's 3 o'clock. / It's half past three.
- It's quarter past four. / It's quarter to five.
- At + time: I wake up at seven o'clock.

EXAMPLES

"What time is it? — It's nine o'clock."

"It's half past ten."

"It's quarter past six."

"It's quarter to eight."

"I wake up at seven every day."

"The film starts at half past eight."

"We have lunch at one o'clock."

"School finishes at three thirty."

MINI VOCABULARY

wake up — to stop sleeping

lunch — the midday meal

finish — to stop or complete something

start — to begin

clock — shows the time

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Write 4:15 in words.
2. Write 6:30 in words.
3. Ask a friend "What time do you...?"

DID YOU KNOW?

In everyday British English, people usually say 'half past three' rather than 'three thirty', though both are correct.

14 Past Simple: to be

/ 16

was and were

GRAMMAR FOCUS

The past of am/is is was, and the past of are is were. We use them to talk about people, places and situations in the past.

- I/he/she/it + was
- you/we/they + were
- Negative: wasn't / weren't. Question: Was/Were...?

EXAMPLES

"I was at home yesterday."

"She was very tired."

"They were at the cinema."

"We weren't ready."

"Was it cold this morning?"

"Were you at the party?"

"He wasn't happy about the news."

"The children were in the garden."

MINI VOCABULARY

yesterday — the day before today

tired — needing rest or sleep

ready — prepared for something

cinema — a place to watch films

garden — an outdoor area with plants

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Complete: "They ____ (be) at school." (past)
2. Make negative: "She was busy."
3. Ask a question about last weekend using 'were'.

DID YOU KNOW?

Was/were is one of the most irregular verbs in English, but it's also one of the most useful to learn early.

15 Past Simple: Regular Verbs

/ 16

-ed endings

GRAMMAR FOCUS

We usually add -ed to the base verb to form the Past Simple. Some verbs change spelling slightly (stop → stopped, study → studied).

- verb + -ed: work → worked, play → played
- Consonant + y → -ied: study → studied
- Negative: didn't + base verb (no -ed)

EXAMPLES

"I worked late last night."

"She studied English at university."

"We watched a film yesterday."

"They played tennis on Sunday."

"He didn't call me."

"I didn't finish my homework."

"It rained all day."

"We visited our grandparents last week."

MINI VOCABULARY

university — a place for higher education

tennis — a sport played with rackets

call — to phone someone

homework — school work done at home

visit — to go and see someone or somewhere

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Write the past simple of "play".
2. Write the past simple of "study".
3. Make negative: "She called her mother."

DID YOU KNOW?

In the negative and question forms, the main verb stays in the base form — it's didn't that shows the past, not the verb itself.

16 Everyday A1 Vocabulary

/ 16

Numbers, food & family — bringing it all together

GRAMMAR FOCUS

In this final unit, you'll combine grammar from Units 1–15 with essential everyday vocabulary — numbers, food and family — the words you'll use every single day.

- Numbers: one, two, three... twenty, thirty...
- Food: bread, rice, chicken, vegetables, fruit
- Family: mother, father, parents, children

EXAMPLES

"I have two brothers and one sister."

"There are twelve months in a year."

"I usually eat rice and chicken for dinner."

"My mother is a doctor."

"We are a big family — six people!"

"Can I have some bread, please?"

"My father works in a shop."

"I like fruit, especially apples and bananas."

MINI VOCABULARY

parents — your mother and father

rice — a common food, small white grains

chicken — a common type of meat

fruit — sweet food like apples and bananas

doctor — a person who helps sick people

✓ CHECK YOURSELF

1. Count from one to ten in English.
2. Name three foods you like.
3. Describe your family in two or three sentences.

DID YOU KNOW?

Congratulations — you're ready for A2! At A1 you've built the essential foundation every fluent speaker starts with.



Well Done!

You've completed **Success English Foundations — A1**.

Sixteen units, one confident new level of English. Here's everything you've mastered:

01 Hello, English!	02 Pronouns & Possessives	03 A, An & Plurals	04 This, That, These, Those
05 There is / There are	06 Prepositions of Place	07 Present Simple	08 Present Simple Questions
09 Can & Can't	10 Instructions & Imperatives	11 Adjectives	12 Present Continuous
13 Telling the Time	14 Past Simple: to be	15 Past Simple: Regular Verbs	16 Everyday A1 Vocabulary

WHAT'S NEXT?

This eBook is designed only as a free guide to give direction to your lessons. For personalised coaching and to go further with your English — towards confident A2 conversations — book your free appointment today.

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