


26 be, have and have got

1 be

POSITIVE	<i>I am ('m) English. You are ('re) early. She is ('s) a teacher. They are ('re) ill.</i>
NEGATIVE	<i>I am ('m) not French. He is not (isn't) a tennis player. We are not (aren't) from here.</i>
QUESTIONS	<i>Are you English? (No, I'm not.) Are they interesting? (Yes, they are.) Why is it a good job?</i>



This **is** Karren Brady. She's married and she **has** two children. She's also a top business person and a director of West Ham Football Club.

NATURAL ENGLISH In speech and informal writing, we usually use short forms e.g. *I'm, she's, he isn't, we aren't*. For negative questions with *I am*, we use *aren't I*: *Why aren't I on the list?*

We use the verb *be* to talk about


- people and things: *This is Karren Brady. Ginny is very attractive.*
- current states: *It's really hot at the moment. She's married. I'm homesick.*
- qualities (adjectives): *My car is Japanese. My children aren't rude! I'm 1.75 metres tall.*
- opinions: *This book is boring. Musicals are very popular.*
- position/location and time: *My flat's close to the city centre. It's two o'clock.*
- someone's job/position: *Karren Brady is a business person. We're students.*

Pronunciation ▶ 1.08

2 have and have got

POSITIVE	<i>I have two brothers. She has a sports car. They have a huge house.</i>	<i>I have ('ve) got two brothers. She has ('s) got a sports car. They have ('ve) got a huge house.</i>
NEGATIVE	<i>I do not (don't) have a sister. He does not (doesn't) have a motorbike. We do not (don't) have an apartment.</i>	<i>I have not (haven't) got a sister. He has not (hasn't) got a motorbike. We have not (haven't) got an apartment.</i>
QUESTIONS	<i>Do you have a niece? (Yes, I do.) Does she have a cat? (No, she doesn't.) Why do they have two cars?</i>	<i>Have you got a niece? (Yes, I have.) Has she got a cat? (No, she hasn't.) Why have they got two cars?</i>

Pronunciation ▶ 1.09

 We use forms of *have*, not *have got*, with past and future tenses:

- ✗ *When I was a child I had got a pet cat.* ✓ *When I was a child I had a pet cat.*
 ✗ *One day we will have got our own house.* ✓ *One day we will have our own house.*

We use both *have* and *have got* to talk about

- relationships: *I've got two brothers. She has two children.*
- possessions: *I've got a good camera. Do they have a lot of money?*
- features: *Everyone in my family has got dark hair. The apartment doesn't have a garden.*
- illness: *Sandra's got a cold. Does the baby have a temperature?*
- appointments: *I have an exam tomorrow. Has Fiona got an interview at Oxford?*

We can also use *have* + noun (but not *have got*) to talk about some things we do.

- hygiene and appearance: *have a haircut/a shower/a bath/a wash/a shave*
- food and drink: *have lunch/an evening meal/a snack/a drink/a meal out*
- experiences: *have fun/a good time/a bad time*
- special events: *have a party/a celebration/a holiday/a trip*
- activity (or lack of): *have a walk/a run/a swim/a sleep/a rest/a break*
- communication: *have a talk/a conversation/an argument/a word (with)*

Jack can't come to the phone; he's having a shower. I always have a good time at parties. Listen to that noise! The neighbours are having a party! I'm tired – let's have a break.

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