# The Present Tense Of être

The verb ***être*** (to be) is irregular. The present tense is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| je suis  tu es  il est  elle est  on est  nous sommes  vous êtes  ils sont  elles sont | I am  you are (singular, informal)  he, it is  she, it is  we are / people are  we are  you are (plural, polite form)  they are (masculine)  they are (feminine) |

**Les Professions**

When you use job titles in French, there is no article (the – *le la, l’, les*; a/an – *un, une*). You simply say *je suis directeur général* or *il est ingénieur*.

**Exercise 1**

*Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the verb être, then translate the sentences into English.*



1. Je chef des achats.





1. Il contrôleur financier.





1. Nous chefs de produit.





1. Elle comptable.



1. Vous ingénieur.





1. Tu chef de la publicité.





1. Elles téléphonistes.





1. Il directeur-général.





1. Ils responsables de ventes.





1. Vous responsable des ressources humaines.



**Les Nationalités**

When giving your nationality, you are describing yourself and so are using an adjective. Adjectives in French have to ‘agree’ with the person or object that they are describing i.e. they have to agree in gender and number.

Usually, to make an adjective feminine, add an *–e*.

To make an adjective plural, add an *–s*, unless it already ends in an *–s*.

To make an adjective feminine plural, add *–es*.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Masculine | Feminine |
| Singular | Il est espagnol | Elle est espagnole |
| Plural | Ils sont espagnols | Elles sont espagnoles |

Some adjectives are irregular e.g. an adjective that ends in *–ien*, becomes *–ienne* in the feminine e.g. il est italien, elle est italienne.

Note the use of the lower case for adjectives of nationality.

**Vocabulaire**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| français, française  anglais, anglaise  irlandais, irlandaise  écossais, écossaise  gallois, galloise  espagnol, espagnole  italien, italienne  allemand, allemande  américain, américaine | french  english  irish  scottish  welsh  spanish  italian  german  american |
| ingénieur  comptable  expert-comptable  contrôleur financier  directeur financier  chef de… / reponsable de …  directeur / directrice de  chef / responsable de ventes  chef / responsable des achats  chef de produit  chef de marque  chef de publicité  chef de production  chef des ressources humaines  directeur des ressources humaines  directeur-général  président directeur-général  secrétaire  secrétaire de direction  assistante personelle  assistante à la direction | engineer  accountant  chartered accountant  finance controller  finance director  manager of  director of  sales manager  purchasing manager  product manager  brand manager  advertising manager  production manager  HR manager  HR Director  MD  CEO  secretary  PA  PA  PA to senior managment |

## **Exercise 2**

*Translate the following sentences into French.*

1. He is French.



1. We are German.



1. They are Irish.



1. I am English.



1. We are American.



1. You (polite) are German.



1. They (feminine) are Welsh.



1. He is Scottish.



1. They (masculine) are American.



1. You (singular, informal, feminine) are French.



1. We (feminine) are accountants.



1. I am a sales manager.



1. He is a marketing director.



1. They (masculine) are product managers.



1. You (polite, singular, masculine) are a production manager.



1. They (feminine) are brand managers.



1. You (polite, plural, feminine) are receptionists.



1. She is a human resources manager.



1. You (polite, singular, feminine) are a director.



1. You (singular, informal, masculine) are a finance director.

