

Where Is She From?

The Basics

- Teacher's Insights -

This lesson is designed for A1 (or beginner) learners. This class should take around 30 minutes, but can be extended with extra activities. It is designed to be simple to follow. For level 'A0' or total beginner, be prepared to translate or act out the instructions.

Introduction: Look at the pictures. Where are the people from?



The people are holding objects to help you identify where they are from.

From left to right: she is from the UK; they are from the US / they are from America; he is from China; she is from France; they are from Mexico; she is from Spain.

*The things they are wearing and holding are intended to help learners identify the countries and not reinforce stereotypes.

Vocabulary Focus: Learn the nationalities by completing the sentences.

1. I am from France. → I am **French**.
2. I am from Sweden. → I am **Swedish**.
3. You are from Russia. → You are **Russian**.
4. You are from Germany. → You are **German**.
5. He is from Spain. He is **Spanish**.
6. She is from Italy. She is **Italian**.
7. We are from Poland. We are **Polish**.
8. They are from Canada. They are **Canadian**.
9. My friend is from the UK. She is **British**.
*She could also be English, Scottish, Welsh, or Northern Irish
10. My colleague is from the US. He is **American**. *Spanish speakers understand 'American' as being 'from the Americas'; explain that in English, it means 'from the USA'.
11. My grandparents are from Nigeria. They are **Nigerian**.
12. The students are from China. They are **Chinese**.
13. The teacher is from Japan. She is **Japanese**.
14. You and your sister are from Mexico. You are **Mexican**.
15. The actor is from Morocco. He is **Moroccan**.
16. The singer is from Egypt. She is **Egyptian**.
17. The dancers are from Argentina. They are **Argentinian**. *(sometimes 'Argentine')
18. The scientists are from Greece. They are **Greek**.
19. My brother and I are from Ireland. We are **Irish**.
20. My friends and I are from Australia. We are **Australian**.

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Extra: Do you know any other countries and nationalities?

Here, students can tell you any other countries and nationalities they know. Make sure to include any nationalities that your students might have and that aren't covered by the previous exercise.

How you use the following Grammar Focus elements will depend on your students' ability. If they are level 'A0' or total beginners, you'll need to go through one by one and make sentences from each. If they are more or less familiar with 'to be' in the present, just test them on the harder parts, such as the contractions and questions.

Grammar Focus: Study the contractions of the verb 'to be'.

I am → I'm

You are → You're

He is → He's

She is → She's

We are → We're

They are → They're

Now, try making sentences with all of the contractions.

Grammar Focus II: Study the negative contractions of the verb 'to be'.

I am not → I'm not

You are not → You're not / You aren't

He is not → He's not / He isn't

She is not → She's not / She isn't

We are not → We're not / We aren't

They are not → They're not / They aren't

Now, try making sentences with all of the contractions.

Grammar Focus III: Study the question forms of the verb 'to be'.

I am → Am I...?

You are → Are you...?

He is → Is he...?

She is → Is she...?

We are → Are we...?

They are → Are they...?

Speaking Element: Think of a famous person and follow the instructions.

For this speaking element, it will be very helpful if your students already know jobs and professions. If they do not or their level is 'A0', they can do some parts via mime and the little language they do have. Remember that the focus in any case is the verb 'to be' and the nationalities.

Think of a famous person that everyone will know. Now, imagine you are that famous person! Your classmates will ask you questions. You will only be able to answer 'yes' or 'no' to the questions. Example questions could be: Are you Spanish? Are you an actor? See how many questions your classmates need to guess who you are!

Extra Activity: Where is the singer from?

As a teacher, prepare songs from different countries. Play the song and ask the students, 'Where is the singer from?' or 'Where is the group from?'.

*Please make sure to follow your country's copyright laws while doing this activity. In many countries, teachers are allowed to play music in the classroom for educational purposes without requiring permission from the copyright holder.