C'est or il est?

Introduce someone or describe them with these common French patterns.

YOUR GOAL Notice what follows: a noun with a determiner (un, une, mon), a profession, or an adjective.

c'est

A common way to identify someone or something, with un, une, mon…

C'est un livre.

It's a book.

C'est un médecin.

That's a doctor.

C'est mon amie.

This is my friend. (female)

il est / elle est

A profession without an article, or an adjective about a known person.

Il est médecin.

He's a doctor.

Elle est professeure.

She's a teacher.

Elle est gentille.

She's kind.

Three useful patterns

With an article	C'est un livre.	It's a book.
Profession	Il est médecin.	He's a doctor.
Description	Elle est gentille.	She's kind.

French mon amie uses mon before a vowel even for a female friend. These are common beginner patterns, not every use of c'est.

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Make it a conversation.

Read the meaning, choose a form, then check why it fits.

An article changes the pattern

C'est un médecin.
That's a doctor.

Il est médecin.
He's a doctor.

C'est un médecin identifies. Il est médecin gives his profession without un.

C'est can precede an adjective

C'est facile.
It is easy.

Il est gentil.
He's kind.

C'est facile comments on a situation. Il est gentil describes a specific man.

Your turn

Fill the gaps with c'est, il est, or elle est. Follow these patterns and the meaning.

01 _____ un livre.
It's a book.

02 _____ médecin.
He's a doctor.

03 _____ mon amie.
This is my friend. (female)

04 _____ gentille.
She's kind.

05 _____ un médecin.
That's a doctor.

06 _____ professeur.
He's a teacher.

07 _____ gentil.
He's kind.

08 _____ professeure.
She's a teacher.

Check your answers

1. C'est Noun with a determiner: c'est + un livre.
2. Il est Profession without an article: il est + médecin.
3. C'est Noun with a determiner: c'est + mon amie.
4. Elle est Adjective about this person: elle est + gentille.
5. C'est Noun with a determiner: c'est + un médecin.
6. Il est Profession without an article: il est + professeur.
7. Il est Adjective about this person: il est + gentil.
8. Elle est Profession without an article: elle est + professeure.

MAKE IT YOURS Introduce a friend with c'est, then describe their profession or a quality with il est or elle est.

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