

## The Kestrel

The kestrel **is** a small, chestnut brown bird of prey. It **belongs** to the falcon family. Kestrels **are** 32–39 cm (13–15 in) from head to tail. Their wings **are** 65–82 cm (26–32 in) when spread out. Females **are** larger than males (tercels). Kestrels **are** smaller than other birds of prey. Like the other members of the falcon family, they **have** long wings and a long tail. Their feathers **are** mainly light brown with black spots on the top and narrow blackish streaks on the underside. The kestrel's hooked bill **is** a bluish colour with bit of yellow at the top. The legs **are** yellow.

The kestrel **is** unusual because it **is** the only bird of prey that can hover. When hunting, the kestrel **hovers** about 10–20 m (c.30–70 ft) above the ground. Kestrels **have** very good eyesight. They can see small prey from a distance. Once it **sees** the prey, the bird **makes** a short, steep dive. They **eat** only mouse-sized mammals, large insects and small birds.

Kestrels **are** bold, and have adapted well to humans. They **nest** in buildings and they often **hunt** by main roads. Kestrels **do not build** their own nests, but they **use** nests built by other birds.

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**The verb 'to be' :** 8 + 2 + 1 = 11

**Other simple Present tense verbs:** 2 + 5 + 3 = 10

**Negative:** 1