

English Verb “to be” – Conjugations

	Past	Present	Future
Simple	was(n't) were(n't)	am (not) is(n't) are(n't)	will / won't be (<i>prediction, fact, promise</i>) am (not) going to be (<i>personal plans</i>) is(n't) going to be (<i>personal plans</i>) are(n't) going to be (<i>personal plans</i>)
Continuous	was(n't) being were(n't) being	am (not) being is(n't) being are(n't) being	
Perfect	had(n't) been	has(n't) been have(n't) been	

(Some forms of the verb “to be” are never used or are extremely rare)

Here are some examples:

	Past	Present	Future
Simple	Yesterday, he was sick. Yesterday, they were sick.	I am happy today. He is happy today. We are happy today.	He will be furious! I am going to be in Scotland next week. He is going to be in Scotland next week. We are going to be in Scotland next week.
Continuous	He was being offensive last night during dinner. They were being offensive last night during dinner.	I am being fair. He is being unfair. You are being unfair.	
Perfect	He was very tired in the morning because it had been a terrible night.	He has been to Scotland many times. It has been cold recently. I have been to Scotland many times. We have been married for ten years.	

Suggested videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTujTznkcLo> (10 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EesQolfp9gQ> (13 mins)

Exercise 1. Complete the following sentences using the given verb tenses.

1. He _____ stressed today. (*Present Simple*)
2. They _____ absent last class. (*Past Simple*)
3. She _____ tired tomorrow. (*Future Simple – prediction*)
4. She _____ visit her parents on Saturday. (*Future Simple – personal plan*)
5. I _____ crazy! (*Present Continuous*)
6. Yesterday, he _____ very difficult during the meeting. (*Past Continuous*)
7. He _____ very stressed recently. (*Present Perfect*)
8. We slept like a log because we _____ awake for more than 24 hours. (*Past Perfect*)

Exercise 2. To negate the verb “to be”, we simply add “not” or “n’t”.

Convert examples 1-7 from Exercise 1 into a negative phrase:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Exercise 3. To make a question with the verb to be, we simply swap the subject and the verb.

Convert examples 1-7 from Exercise 1 into a question:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____