

Grammar: The verb esse

Esse - Present stem forms

Infinitive

esse

to be

Present

Indicative

Person	Latin	Translation
I	sum	I am
You	es	You are
He	est	He is
We	sumus	We are
You	estis	You are
They	sunt	They are

Subjunctive

Person	Latin
I	sim
You	sis
He	sit
We	simus
You	sitis
They	sint

Imperfect

The indicative is formed by adding the regular present verb endings to the root *era-*.

Indicative

Person	Latin	Translation
I	eram	I was
You	eras	You were

Perfect

The indicative is formed by adding the regular perfect verb endings to the root *fu-*.

Indicative

Person	Latin	Translation
I	fui	I have been
You	fuisti	You have been
He	fuit	He has been
We	fuimus	We have been
You	fuistis	You have been
They	fuerunt	They have been

Subjunctive

Person	Latin
I	fuerim
You	fueris
He	fuerit
We	fuerimus
You	fueritis
They	fuerint

Pluperfect

The indicative is formed by adding the imperfect form of the verb to the root *fu-*.

Indicative

Person	Latin	Translation
I	fueram	I had been
You	fueras	You had been
He	fuerat	He had been
We	fueramus	We had been
You	fueratis	You had been
They	fuerant	They had been

Subjunctive

Person	Latin
I	fuissem
You	fuiesses
He	fuisset
We	fuissemus
You	fuissetis
They	fuisissent

Future Perfect

This is formed by adding the future form of the verb to the root *fu-*.

Indicative

Person	Latin	Translation
I	fuero	I shall have been
You	fueris	You will have been
He	fuerit	He will have been
We	fuerimus	We shall have been
You	fueritis	You will have been
They	fuerint	They will have been

Examples drawn from the exercises

Identify the form of *esse* in each sentence or phrase, and translate it.

The number after each question indicates the exercise from which it has been drawn, so that you can look at the example in context.

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|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Quid est autumnus? | <i>Exercise 3</i> |
| 2. es non dura. | <i>Exercise 6</i> |
| 3. me esse clementem | <i>Exercise 7</i> |
| 4. si sunt plures pares | <i>Exercise 11</i> |
| 5. Quid sunt holera? | <i>Exercise 3</i> |

Further examples

1. servi eramus, sed nunc liberi sumus.

2. puellae pulchrae estis.
3. via longa fuerat.
4. cras opus finitus erit.
5. ego sum Marcus Decimus Meridius.