



IIT Madras
ONLINE DEGREE

Verb 'be' in English

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Things to remember ...

- All sentences will have subjects and predicates.
- Order of words in a sentence
 - [[Subject] [verb object adverbs]]
- **Subject and verb in predicate agree with each other.**

Agreement in English

- Something between the subject and the verb in predicate is obvious.
- This is called agreement.
- How does this work.

- Number SINGULAR PLURAL
- Person FIRST SECOND THIRD

Number and Person

Number	→	Singular	Plural
Person	↓		
• I		I	We
• II		You	You
• II		He, She, It	They

Be in English – Auxiliary verbs?

- Be has different forms in modern English.
- IS
- ARE
- AM
- WAS
- WERE

Will/Shall – Future Tense Marker

- Will Would
- Shall Should

- Can Could
- May Might

Examples of verbs 'be'

- I ~~am~~/~~was~~ a doctor.
- We ~~are~~/~~were~~ students.
- You ~~are~~/~~were~~ a teacher.
- He/She ~~is~~/~~was~~ a teacher.
- They ~~are~~/~~were~~ teachers.

Verb be and agreement in English ...

- 1. Rekha and her brothers (is, **are**) in Delhi.
- 2. Either my mother or my father (**is**, are) coming to the meeting.
- 3. The dog or the cats (is, **are**) outside.
- 4. Either my shoes or my coat (**is**, are) always on the floor.
- 5. One of my sisters (**is**, are) going on a trip to France.

Use of Will/Shall

- 1. John will be a doctor.
- 9. I shall go home now.
- 10. The players, as well as the captain, **will** win the match.

Auxiliary Verb and Be

- I am coming from Madurai.
- I am doing well.
- I was going to tell you.