Verbs of Being

How To Say "Is" In Greek

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app
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Two Primary Verbs of Being

- *εἰμί*, "I am; I exist"
    - Present Infinitive, *εἶναι*
    - No middle or passive forms
    - No aorist forms, "imperfect" instead for past time
- *γίνομαι*, "I become, come into being; I am"
    - Present Infinitive, *γινεσθαι*
    - 2nd Aorist Infinitive, *γενεσθαι*
    - Middle only (no passive forms)

Present Active Forms of Εἰμι

	Singular	Plural
1st person	εἰμι	ἐσμεν
2nd person	εἰ	ἐστε
3rd person	ἐστι(ν)	εἰσιν

Imperfect Active Forms of Εἰμι

	Singular	Plural
1st person	ἤμην	ἤμεν / ἤμεθα
2nd person	ἤς	ἤτε
3rd person	ἤν	ἤσαν

Future Active Forms of Εἰμι

	Singular	Plural
1st person	ἐσομαι	ἐσομεθα
2nd person	ἐση	ἐσεσθε
3rd person	ἐσται	ἐσονται

Present Active Imperative Forms of Εἰμι

	Singular	Plural
1st person	–	–
2nd person	ἰσθι	ἐστε
3rd person	ἐστω	ἐστωσαν

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Present Middle Forms of Γινομαι

	Singular	Plural
1st person	γινομαι	γινομεθα
2nd person	γινῃ	γινεσθε
3rd person	γινεται	γινονται

2ⁿᵈ Aorist Middle Forms of Γινομαι

	Singular	Plural
1ˢᵗ person	ἐγενομην	ἐγενομεθα
2ⁿᵈ person	ἐγενου	ἐγενεσθε
3ʳᵈ person	ἐγενετο	ἐγενοντο

Future Middle Forms of Γινομαι

	Singular	Plural
1st person	γενησομαι	γενησομεθα
2nd person	γενησῃ	γενησεσθε
3rd person	γενησεται	γενησονται

Imperative Forms of Γινομαι

	Present Middle Imperative	Aorist Middle Imperative	
2ⁿᵈ person	γινου	γενου	sing.
	γινεσθε	γενεσθε	plur.
3ʳᵈ person	γινεσθω	γενεσθω	sing.
	γινεσθωσαν	γενεσθωσαν	plur.

Keep Learning

- You can learn more about verbs of being (εἰμί and γίνομαι) here:
  - Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek* (3rd edition)
    - εἰμι, 8.10-8.15 (pp. 58-60), 21.23 (p. 190), 32.5 (p. 300), 33.12 (p. 313)
    - impersonal subjects, 21.25 (p. 193)