

The Verb To Be – esse

The verb to be is a very useful verb – it is used to form some irregular verbs and it is used to form the perfect and the pluperfect passive tenses.

The six **indicative active** tenses of the verb to be that need learning are:

Present		Imperfect		Perfect		Pluperfect		Future		Future Perfect	
sum	I am	eram	I was	fui	I have been	fueram	I had been	ero	I shall be	fueo	I shall have been
es	you are	eras	you were	fuisti	you have been	fueras	You had been	eris	you will be	fueris	You will have been
est	he is	erat	she was	fuit	he has been	fuerat	He had been	erit	she will be	fuerit	He will have been
sumus	we are	eramus	we were	fuiimus	we have been	fueramus	We had been	erimus	we shall be	fuerimus	We will have been
estis	you are	eratis	you were	fuistis	you have been	fueratis	You had been	eritis	you will be	fueritis	You will have been
sunt	they are	erant	they were	fuerunt	they have been	fuerant	They had been	erunt	they will be	fuerint	They will have been

And the subjunctive forms are:

Present		Imperfect		Perfect		Pluperfect	
sim	I am	essem	I was	fuerim	I have been	fuissem	I had been
sis	you are	esses	you were	fueris	you have been	fuissem	You had been
sit	he is	esset	she was	fuerit	he has been	fuisset	He had been
simus	we are	essemus	we were	fuerimus	we have been	fuissemus	We had been
sitis	you are	essetis	you were	fueritis	you have been	fuissetis	You had been
sint	they are	essent	they were	fuerint	they have been	fuisissent	They had been

You also need to know the infinitives of the verb to be:

Present Infinitive: **esse** = to be

Perfect Infinitive: **fuisse** = to have been

Future Infinitive: **futurus esse/fore** = to be about to be