



The verb “To Be” as the main verb in English

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the main role, usage, and types of the verb “to be” in English grammar. Thus, the importance of the verb “to be” in speech is illustrated by examples and exercises.

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First, consider the features of the construction of sentences in English. It so happened that every full-fledged English sentence must necessarily include two elements: the subject (what is the subject, that is, the main thing in the sentence) and the action that this subject performs (that is, the verb answers the question “what to do?”). For example, in the sentence “I work on Monday”, the subject is “I”, the action is “work”. In the sentence “She understood everything”, the subject is “she”, the action is “understood”. But the action is not always so obvious. There are situations when it simply does not exist in Uzbek. For example: “This job is interesting.” There is a subject here - “job”. The action is missing. Or another example: “He is a good specialist.” The subject is “he”. Where is the action? It is missing again. So, we are observing a phenomenon in which there are such sentences in Uzbek, but it is not yet clear how to translate them into English correctly and where to get the action from.

The verb to be in English

Now it's time to invite the verb to be onto the stage. To be will help us in the situations described above. Thus, in all sentences where we describe someone or something and tell

where we or someone is, it is the verb to be that will act as an action.

Our next step is to get acquainted with the forms of the verb to be. There are currently three of them:

am, is and are - three managers, each of which is responsible for its own area:

“am” is responsible for sentences in which the subject is the pronoun “I” (I);

“is” is used when our subject is the pronouns “he”, “she”, “it”, “it” and any singular nouns (bag, dog, book, work, my sister, etc.);

“are” builds sentences in which the subject is the pronouns “you”, “you”, “they”, “we” and also plural nouns (friends, problems, tasks, houses, etc.).

In spoken English, to save time on pronunciation, it is common to use the following abbreviations:

I am → I'm.

He is → He's.

She is → She's.

It is → It's.

You are → You're.

We are → We're.

They are → They're.

Negative with the verb “to be” in English:

Now let's look at how to say “This is NOT difficult”, “I'm NOT busy”, “They are NOT ready”,

that is, to build a denial. Negation is built very simply: using the negative particle NOT, which is placed after am, is or are. For example, "I am NOT busy".

And here it was "not" without the abbreviations adopted in colloquial English. The NOT particle is attached to the is and are forms, and this is what happens:

is + not = isn't;

are + not = aren't.

Oddly enough, but the form am does not participate in such an abbreviation, and the variant amn't does not exist in English.

A separate article is devoted to negation in English on our blog.

Questions with the verb to be in English

It's time for questions. Questions with the verb to be are also built simply: the forms am, is, are are brought forward and become at the beginning of the sentence.

As you can see, building sentences with the verb to be is very simple. It is much more difficult to determine the situation where it is needed and where it is not. As mentioned at the beginning of this article, the verb to be is used when there is no main action in our sentence (think, work, read, run, etc.). These are sentences in which we describe something or someone ("This city is beautiful", "We are busy"), talk about someone's location ("My brother is at work"), characterize someone ("She is beautiful employee"). The reverse is also true: the verb to be is not used when the sentence has a main action. For example: "I go to the cinema", "She reads a lot", "We don't work on Sunday", etc. That is, saying She is reads a lot is a gross mistake, because is is not needed here, since there is a read action .

Note that the verb to be is also used as an auxiliary word in the tenses of the Continuous group. In this case, it is used even if the sentence has a main verb showing the action. This is the formula for the formation of Continuous tenses, which should be remembered: to be + verb + ending -ing. There are no combinations to be + verb: I am do, he is read, they are work.

The verb "to be" is one of the most important verbs in the English language, as its meaning is considered very important for a person, which is confirmed by its wide meaning

and multifunctionality. The question of being arose already in the first reflections of the ancient philosophers, and the concepts that correlate with the basic meaning of the verb "to be", "to be", "eternity", "infinity", "emptiness (nothing)" and others, act as the main ones for a person. . This could not but be reflected in the language - the verb "to be" is recognized as fundamental, wide-ranging and performs many functions in the English language. In addition, it is considered one of the most frequently used in the language. Among the three basic English verbs "to be", "to have", "to do", it also occupies a leading position and plays the most important role. For every nation, the concept of "to be, to exist" is the key. This feature could not but be reflected in the language. It is known that in languages belonging to the Indo-European family, the verb "to be" is one of the most frequently used. The French linguist Gustave Guillaume, in his theory of psycho systematics, refers the verb "to be" to verbs that carry the idea of genesis, existence, and therefore to verbs that have the primacy of meaning. Such verbs are the basis for the rest of the verbs of the language, because in order to live, to carry out any kind of activity, it is necessary, first of all, to exist. From the scientist's point of view, the verb "to be", being an auxiliary, can be considered as complete in terms of form, and as incomplete in terms of content. In turn, acting as a semantic verb, "to be" is complete in terms of content and incomplete in terms of form. In English, we can observe how in different contexts the verb "to be" appears in one place as a semantic verb, and in another as a service verb. Accordingly, the verb "to be" in English can have both completeness of form and completeness of content.

References:

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