

1. The Verb होना “to be”

You’ve learned the present tense verb conjugation for होना “to be” as a song sung to the tune of *The Farmer in the Dell*. In English, if you read or say the word ‘I’ it’s a good bet that the next word will be ‘am’. The two words ‘go together’. Similarly, if you see the word ‘he’ the next word is fairly likely to be ‘is’. And you will simply never hear ‘he am’. The counterpart to this in Hindi is मैं हूँ. If the sentence starts with मैं it will almost certainly end with हूँ. The full conjugation follows. These combinations should be memorized.

मैं हूँ	I am
तुम हो	you are (familiar)
यह है	he is; she is; it is (close)
वह है	he is; she is; it is (farther away)
हम हैं	we are (also used for ‘I am’)
आप हैं	you are (respectful)
ये हैं	they are (close)
वे हैं	they are (farther away)

Study the following sentences from the text to understand how this transfers to real sentences.

Subject	Object or something about the subject	Verb
मैं I	चार साल की a four year old	हूँ am
मैं I	अमेरिका से America from	हूँ am
तुम You	कितने साल की how many years old	हो are
वह He	सात साल का a seven year old	है is
वह He	किस क्लास में what class in	है is
वह He	कहाँ where	है is
यह This	मेरा बेटा my son	है is
इसका नाम His (this one's) name	रवि Ravi	है is
आप You	किस कन्ट्री से what country from	हैं are