

## Review 2.7: The verb to be

*To be* may be a linking verb (I am tired) or an intransitive one (I am at home).

When it is a linking verb, it connects to the subject a predicate that must agree with it in every possible way: if a noun, it must be in the same case, yet it will show its own gender and be in the number required by the sense (example 1); if an adjective, it must agree with the S in gender, number, and case (example 2).

EXAMPLES:

1) οἶδε οἱ ἄνθρωποι προφῆταί εἰσιν.

*These men are prophets.*

2) ἡ μήτηρ ἦν δίκαια.

*The mother was righteous.*

If a nominal clause (i.e., a clause with a linking verb) is an indirect statement with the structure Acc + Infinitive, its Predicate will be in the Accusative (examples 3 and 4).

3) ἔφασαν τούσδε τοὺς ἀνθρώπους προφήτας εἶναι

*They said that these men are / were prophets.*

4) τὴν μητέρα εἶναι δίκαιαν ἔφη ὁ υἱός.

*The son said that his mother is / was righteous.*

The same rules apply to other linking verbs, such as γί(γ)νομαι (to become), φαίνομαι (to seem), etc. (examples 5 and 6)

5) χρόνῳ καὶ πόνῳ γενήσεσθε σοφοί.

*You (pl) will become wise with time and effort.*

6) ἔφη τοὺς παῖδας γενήσεσθαι σοφούς.

*He said that the boys would become wise.*