Be or do

Be (am, is, are, was, were, been):

"**Be**" is an **irregular verb** that serves as both a main verb and an auxiliary verb (helping verb) in English.
As a **main verb**, "be" is used to indicate a state of being, identity, existence, or condition.
As an **auxiliary verb**, "be" is used to create continuous tenses (present continuous, past continuous, future continuous) and the passive voice.

- Examples of "be" as a main verb:
- I **am** a teacher. (identity)
- She **is** happy. (state of being)
- They **were** at the party. (existence)



Examples of "be" as an auxiliary verb:

- He **is** studying for his exams. (present continuous tense)
- The book **was** written by a famous author. (passive voice)

Do (do, does, did, done):

"**Do**" is a **regular verb** that is mainly used as an auxiliary verb to form questions, negatives, and emphatic statements in English.
As an **auxiliary verb**, "do" is used to create the simple present and simple past tenses. Examples of "do" as an auxiliary verb:

- **Do** you like ice cream? (question in simple present tense)
- She **doesn't** speak Spanish. (negative in simple present tense)
- **Did** they finish their homework? (question in simple past tense)



Usage of "Be" and "Do":

"**Be**" is used to describe a state of being, to connect the subject to its description, or to indicate existence.
"**Do**" is used to form questions and negatives in the simple present and simple past tenses, as well as for emphasis. For example:

- She **is** a doctor. (using "be" to describe her identity as a doctor)
- They **are** in the garden. (using "be" to indicate their existence in the garden)
- **Do** you like coffee? (using "do" to form a question in simple present tense)
- He **didn't** finish his homework. (using "do" to create a negative in simple past tense)
- I **do** love watching movies. (using "do" for emphasis)

Be or do exercise 1:

Choose the correct answer.

1. What ___ your favourite colour?
a) do
b) is

2. I ___ a student at the local university.
a) am
b) do

3. ___ they coming to the party tonight?
a) Are
b) Do

4.She ___ a doctor at the hospital.
a) is
b) does

5. How ___ you feel about the new job offer?
a) do
b) are

6. ___ he often visit his grandparents?
a) Does
b) Is

7. They ___ ready to leave for the concert.
a) are
b) do

8. What time ___ the movie start?
a) is
b) does

9.I ___ not interested in participating in the competition.
a) do
b) am

10. ___ you want some coffee?
a) Are
b) Do

Be or do exercise 2:

Complete the sentence/question with the correct form of 'be' or 'do'.

1. Where ___ you going after work today?

2. ___ he live in the city or the countryside?

3. I ___ not sure about the answer to this question.

4. ___ you have any idea where they went?

5. He ___ not like spicy food.

6. We ___ looking forward to the weekend.

7. ___ you want to join us for dinner?

8. ___ you enjoy playing sports?

9. She ___ not feeling well today.

10. She ___ a talented singer.



Be or do: answer key

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Where two or more answers are given, any of them is correct.

Exercise 1

1. b) is
2. a) am
3. a) Are
4. a) is
5. a) do
6. a) Does
7. a) are
8. b) does
9. b) am
10. b) Do

Exercise 2

1. are / 're
2. Does
3. am / 'm
4. Do
5. does
6. are / 're
7. Do
8. Do
9. is / 's
10. is / 's

Corrections to the printed pages

Explanation: do is an irregular verb (do, did, done).