

23401 The Verb होना Chapter 29

होना is actually two verbs. **One verb means ‘to be, to exist’ (columns 1 and 2).**

The other होना, meaning ‘to happen, to occur, to become’ is shown in column 3.

to be/exist (specific)	to be/exist (general)	to happen/occur/become	grammatical name
हूँ, हो, है, हैं ‘is, are’			simple present
था, थे, थी, थीं ‘was, were’			simple past
	होता है ‘generally is’	होता है ‘happens, becomes’	present habitual
	होता था ‘used to be’	होता था ‘used to happen, used to become’	past habitual
		हो रहा है ‘is happening, is becoming’	present progressive
		हो रहा था ‘was happening, was becoming’	past progressive
		हुआ ‘happened, became’	perfect
		हुआ है ‘has happened has become’	present perfect
		हुआ था ‘had happened, had become’	past perfect
होगा ‘will be’	होता होगा ‘must be’	होगा ‘will happen, will become’	future/ presumptive

This table is a graphic explanation of the two different meanings of होना showing:

Which forms can occur,

Which forms can have only one meaning.

Where the forms overlap several meanings.

Except for the simple present and simple past forms, I have only shown the masculine singular matching forms.