Your first Russian sentences

Introduce yourself and say what you have with у меня есть.

YOUR GOAL Leave out the present-tense copula in these basic identity sentences; use есть for a first statement of possession.

Я / она

For these present-tense identity and profession sentences, no am/is/are word is needed.

Я Нора.
Ya Nora.
I'm Nora.

Я врач.
Ya vrach.
I'm a doctor.

Она учительница.
Ona uchitel'nitsa.
She's a teacher.

У меня есть

Start with у + the person's special form, then есть + the thing they have.

У меня есть книга.
U menya yest' kniga.
I have a book.

У тебя есть книга.
U tebya yest' kniga.
You have a book.

У неё есть книга.
U neyo yest' kniga.
She has a book.

Three useful patterns

Identity	Я Нора.	I'm Nora.
Profession	Она учительница.	She's a teacher.
Possession	У меня есть книга.	I have a book.

Readings are an approximate starting aid. The no-copula pattern is for the present; other tenses use other forms. A ' after a consonant marks ь.

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Make it a conversation.

Read the meaning, choose a form, then check why it fits.

No extra есть here

Я врач.
I'm a doctor.

Это книга.
It's a book.

Do not translate am/is word for word. These basic present-tense sentences need no copula.

The person changes form

У меня есть книга.
I have a book.

У неё есть книга.
She has a book.

Я becomes у меня; ты becomes у тебя; она becomes у неё. Start with есть when introducing possession.

Your turn

Write есть for possession, or 0 if no word is needed in the basic present-tense sentence.

01 Я _____ Нора.
I'm Nora.

02 У меня _____ книга.
I have a book.

03 Она _____ учительница.
She's a teacher.

04 У тебя _____ книга.
You have a book.

05 Это _____ книга.
It's a book.

06 У неё _____ книга.
She has a book.

07 Я _____ врач.
I'm a doctor.

08 Книга _____ здесь.
The book is here.

Check your answers

1. 0 No present-tense copula here: Я Нора.
2. есть Possession: у меня есть.
3. 0 No present-tense copula here: Она учительница.
4. есть Possession: у тебя есть.
5. 0 No present-tense copula here: Это книга.
6. есть Possession: у неё есть.
7. 0 No present-tense copula here: Я врач.
8. 0 No present-tense copula here: Книга здесь.

MAKE IT YOURS Say your name and profession or role without a copula. Then say you have a book with у меня есть.

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