

Latvian in everyday situations

Module 4: Photos on the wall

8 Exercises • Duration: 25 min.

Photos on the wall

Latvian

Read & listen online



Māsa, brālis, vecāki

Form	Example	Meaning
jums	Cik jums ir gadu?	How old are you, polite?
Man	Man ir trīsdesmit gadi.	I am thirty.
dēls	Tas ir Maijas dēls.	That is Maija's son.
meita	Tā ir Maijas meita.	That is Maija's daughter.
jaunāks	Man ir jaunāks brālis.	I have a younger brother.
vecāka	Man ir vecāka māsa.	I have an older sister.
jauns jauna	Es esmu jauns. Es esmu jauna.	I am young.
jauns jauna	Jūs esat jauns. Jūs esat jauna.	You are young, polite.

Use genitive owners before their noun: **Elīnas mamma**, Elīna's mother; **Maijas dēls**, Maija's son. Masculine names **Jānis** and **Toms** have genitives **Jāņa** and **Toma**.

Age uses a dative person plus **ir**: **man ir trīsdesmit gadi**. **Cik jums ir gadu?** asks how old someone is. For a baby use months: **viņam ir seši mēneši**.

The learner has **viens jaunāks brālis** and **viena vecāka māsa**. Masculine and feminine comparison endings agree with the sibling, not the learner. **Mans vīrs**, my husband, and **mana sieva**, my wife, identify the person.

Desmitajā jūlijā

Form	Example	Meaning
jūlijā	Dzimšanas diena ir desmitajā jūlijā.	The birthday is on ten July.
martā	Dzimšanas diena ir divdesmit astotajā martā.	The birthday is on twenty-eight March.
pirmais	Tas ir pirmais jautājums.	That is the first question.
pirmā	Tā ir pirmā lapa.	That is the first page.
jauns jauna	Es esmu jauns. · Es esmu jauna.	I am young.
vecs veca	Tu esi vecs. · Tu esi veca.	You are old, familiar.
otrā	Tā ir otrā lapa.	That is the second page.
otrais	Tas ir otrais jautājums.	That is the second question.

An ordinal gives a position: **pirmais, otrais, trešais, ceturtais**, masculine; **pirmā, otrā, trešā, ceturta**, feminine. It agrees with the following noun: **pirmais jautājums, pirmā lapa**.

For a date use the masculine locative of the ordinal and the month: **desmitajā jūlijā**. On forms, a date label can have the nominative: **desmitais jūlijs**. Only the last word of a compound ordinal changes: **divdesmit astotajā martā**.

The learner's birthday is **desmitajā jūlijā** and birth year 1995; Elīna's birthday is **divdesmit astotajā martā**. Ordinary adjectives of age still show the learner's gender: **vecs/veca, jauns/jauna**.

Brūnas acis, melni mati

Form	Example	Meaning
brūnas	Jānim ir brūnas acis.	Jānis has brown eyes.
melni	Jānim ir melni mati.	Jānis has black hair.
brilles	Maijai ir brilles.	Maija has glasses.
garš · gara	Es esmu garš. Es esmu gara.	I am tall.
garš · gara	Jūs esat garš. Jūs esat gara.	You are tall, polite.
īss · īsa	Es esmu īss. Es esmu īsa.	I am short.
cirtaini	Tie ir cirtaini mati.	That is curly hair.
brūnas	Tās ir brūnas acis.	Those are brown eyes.

Describing plural things uses **-i** masculine and **-as** feminine: **melni mati**, black hair; **brūnas acis**, brown eyes. **Mati** is plural for hair. The eyes and ears are feminine nouns: **acs**, **auss**.

Possession stays dative plus **ir**: **Jānim ir brūnas acis**. Polite you is **jums**. Your own description agrees with you: **Es esmu garš/gara**.

Learn **man ir brilles**, I have glasses. For a single speaker, polite **jūs** has a plural verb but a singular describing word: **Jūs esat garš/gara**. Avoid using the other learner gender as a wrong answer.

Elīnai, man, jums

Form	Example	Meaning
man	Tas ir man.	That is for me.
tev	Tas ir tev.	That is for you, familiar.
viņam	Tas ir viņam.	That is for him.
viņai	Tas ir viņai.	That is for her.
mums	Tas ir mums.	That is for us.
jums	Tas ir jums.	That is for you, polite.
Elīnai	Es dodu Elīnai grāmatu.	I give a book to Elīna.
Jānim	Es dodu Jānim grāmatu.	I give a book to Jānis.

A recipient takes the dative: **Elīnai**, to Elīna; **Jānim**, to Jānis; **Tomam**, to Toms. The ordinary singular noun patterns are **-am**, **-im**, **-um**, **-ai**, **-ei**, **-ij**.

The personal recipients are **man**, **tev**, **viņam**, **viņai**, **mums**, **jums**, **viņiem**, **viņām**. A gift phrase needs no English for word: **Tas ir tev**, this is for you.

With give, the thing is accusative and the recipient dative: **Es dodu Elīnai grāmatu**. A reason for a purchase can use a dative noun too: **dāvana Elīnai**.

Biju, bija; precējies, precējusies

Form	Example	Meaning
biju	Es biju jauns.	I was young.
biju	Es biju jauna.	
biji	Tu biji jauns.	You were young, familiar.
biji	Tu biji jauna.	
bija	Viņš bija jauns.	He was young.
bijām	Mēs bijām jauni.	We were young.

Form	Example	Meaning
bijāt bijāt	Jūs bijāt jauns. Jūs bijāt jauna.	You were young, polite.
bija	Viņi bija jauni.	They were young.
nebiju nebiju	Es nebiju precējies. Es nebiju precējusies.	I was not married.
nebijāt nebijāt	Jūs nebijāt precējies. Jūs nebijāt precējusies.	You were not married, polite.

The simple past of **būt** is **biju, biji, bija, bijām, bijāt, bija**. Its negative is **nebiju, nebiji, nebija, nebijām, nebijāt, nebija**. These say how a person or place was.

The finite verb does not change for a male or female learner, but a describing word does: **Es biju jauns/jauna**. Married is **precējies/precējusies**, a useful pair learned whole. Birth descriptions **dzimis/dzimusi** are another useful gender pair.

Full action past is taught in module nine. Photo memories such as **Kad biju mazs, dzīvoju te** and the gift seller's **Jūs spēlējāt** are limited recognition chunks here. The learner's status is unmarried and without children.

The past tense describes an earlier time.

GRAMMAR**G1) FIND THE MODULE PATTERNS**

Underline the form taught in this module.

1 Es esmu jauns.

Meaning: I am young.

2 Es esmu jauna.

Meaning: I am young.

3 Cik jums ir gadu?

Meaning: How old are you, polite?

4 Dzimšanas diena ir desmitajā jūlijā.

Meaning: The birthday is on ten July.

5 Jānim ir brūnas acis.

Meaning: Jānis has brown eyes.

6 Tas ir man.

Meaning: That is for me.

7 Es biju jauns.

Meaning: I was young.

8 Es biju jauna.

Meaning: I was young.

9 Dzimšanas diena ir divdesmit astotajā martā.

Meaning: The birthday is on twenty-eight March.

10 Jānim ir melni mati.

Meaning: Jānis has black hair.

G2) CHOOSE THE FORM 1

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Lukas: Es esmu _____.

- ☐ A jauns
- ☐ B jauni
- ☐ C jaunas

Meaning: I am young.

2 Lena: Es esmu _____.

- ☐ A jauna
- ☐ B jauni
- ☐ C jaunas

Meaning: I am young.

3 Cik _____ ir gadu?

- ☐ A man
- ☐ B jums
- ☐ C mums

Meaning: How old are you, polite?

4 Dzimšanas diena ir desmitajā _____.

- ☐ A jūlijs
- ☐ B jūliju
- ☐ C jūlijā

Meaning: The birthday is on ten July.

5 Jānim ir _____ acis.

- ☐ A brūnas
- ☐ B brūni
- ☐ C brūns

Meaning: Jānis has brown eyes.

6 Tas ir _____.

- ☐ A man
- ☐ B jums
- ☐ C tev

Meaning: That is for me.

7 Lukas: Es _____ jauns.

- ☐ A biji
- ☐ B bijām
- ☐ C biju

Meaning: I was young.

8 Lena: Es _____ jauna.

- ☐ A bijām
- ☐ B biji
- ☐ C biju

Meaning: I was young.

9 Dzimšanas diena ir divdesmit astotajā _____.

- ☐ A martā
- ☐ B marts
- ☐ C martu

Meaning: The birthday is on twenty-eight March.

10 Jānim ir _____ mati.

- ☐ A melns
- ☐ B melni
- ☐ C melnas

Meaning: Jānis has black hair.

G3) CHOOSE THE FORM 2

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Tas ir _____.

- ☐ A tev
- ☐ B man
- ☐ C mums

Meaning: That is for you, familiar.

2 Lukas: Tu _____ jauns.

- ☐ A biji
- ☐ B bijāt
- ☐ C biju

Meaning: You were young, familiar.

3 Lena: Tu _____ jauna.

- ☐ A biju
- ☐ B biji
- ☐ C bijāt

Meaning: You were young, familiar.

4 Tas ir Maijas _____.

- ☐ A dēlu
- ☐ B dēls
- ☐ C dēlam

Meaning: That is Maija's son.

5 Tas ir _____ jautājums.

- ☐ A pirmo
- ☐ B pirmā
- ☐ C pirmais

Meaning: That is the first question.

6 Maijai ir _____.

- ☐ A brilles
- ☐ B aste
- ☐ C bārda

Meaning: Maija has glasses.

7 Tas ir _____.

- ☐ A viņai
- ☐ B viņam
- ☐ C man

Meaning: That is for him.

8 Viņš _____ jauns.

- ☐ A biju
- ☐ B bija
- ☐ C bijām

Meaning: He was young.

9 Tā ir Maijas _____.

- ☐ A meita
- ☐ B meitai
- ☐ C meitu

Meaning: That is Maija's daughter.

G4) CHOOSE THE FORM 3

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Tā ir _____ lapa.

- ☐ A pirmā
- ☐ B pirmo
- ☐ C pirmais

Meaning: That is the first page.

2 Lukas: Es esmu _____.

- ☐ A gari
- ☐ B garas
- ☐ C garš

Meaning: I am tall.

3 Lena: Es esmu _____.

- ☐ A gara
- ☐ B gari
- ☐ C garas

Meaning: I am tall.

4 Tas ir _____.

- ☐ A viņai
- ☐ B man
- ☐ C viņam

Meaning: That is for her.

5 Mēs _____ jauni.

- ☐ A bijām
- ☐ B bija
- ☐ C bijāt

Meaning: We were young.

6 Man ir _____ brālis.

- ☐ A jaunāki
- ☐ B jaunāka
- ☐ C jaunāks

Meaning: I have a younger brother.

7 Tas ir _____.

- ☐ A man
- ☐ B mums
- ☐ C jums

Meaning: That is for us.

8 Lukas: Jūs _____ jauns.

- ☐ A bijām
- ☐ B biju
- ☐ C bijāt

Meaning: You were young, polite.

9 **Lena: Jūs _____ jauna.**

- ☐ A bijām
- ☐ B bijāt
- ☐ C biju

Meaning: You were young, polite.

G5) COMPLETE THE MESSAGES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

jauni jauns

Lukas: Es esmu _____.

Meaning: I am young.

jauni jauna

Lena: Es esmu _____.

Meaning: I am young.

man jums

Cik _____ ir gadu?

Meaning: How old are you, polite?

jūlijs jūlijā

Dzimšanas diena ir desmitajā _____.

Meaning: The birthday is on ten July.

brūni brūnas

Jānim ir _____ acis.

Meaning: Jānis has brown eyes.

tev man

Tas ir _____.

Meaning: That is for me.

biji biju

Lukas: Es _____jauns.

Meaning: I was young.

biji biju

Lena: Es _____jauna.

Meaning: I was young.

marts martā

Dzimšanas diena ir divdesmit astotajā _____.

Meaning: The birthday is on twenty-eight March.

melns melni

Jānim ir _____ mati.

Meaning: Jānis has black hair.

man tev

Tas ir _____.

Meaning: That is for you, familiar.

biju bijī

Lukas: Tu _____ jauns.

Meaning: You were young, familiar.

biju bijī

Lena: Tu _____ jauna.

Meaning: You were young, familiar.

G6) PUT THE MESSAGES TOGETHER

Put the words in order.

1

Maijas

Tas

ir

dēls.

Meaning: That is Maija's son.

2 pirmais ir jautājums. Tas

Meaning: That is the first question.

3 brilles. Maijai ir

Meaning: Maija has glasses.

4 viņam. Tas ir

Meaning: That is for him.

5 bija Viņš jauns.

Meaning: He was young.

6 Tā meita. ir Maijas

Meaning: That is Maija's daughter.

7 pirmā lapa. Tā ir

Meaning: That is the first page.

8 Es esmu garš.

Meaning: I am tall.

9 esmu Es gara.

Meaning: I am tall.

10 Tas viņai. ir

Meaning: That is for her.

11 Mēs jauni. bijām

Meaning: We were young.

G7) USE THE PATTERNS

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 **Lukas: I am young. You say:**

- ☐ A Es esmu jauns.
- ☐ B Es esmu jauni.

2 **Lena: I am young. You say:**

- ☐ A Es esmu jauna.
- ☐ B Es esmu jauni.

3 How old are you, polite? You say:

- ☐ A Cik jums ir gadu?
- ☐ B Cik man ir gadu?

4 The birthday is on ten July. You say:

- ☐ A Dzimšanas diena ir desmitajā jūlijā.
- ☐ B Dzimšanas diena ir desmitajā jūlij.

5 Jānis has brown eyes. You say:

- ☐ A Jānim ir brūni acis.
- ☐ B Jānim ir brūnas acis.

6 That is for me. You say:

- ☐ A Tas ir tev.
- ☐ B Tas ir man.

7 Lukas: I was young. You say:

- ☐ A Es biju jauns.
- ☐ B Es bijī jauns.

8 Lena: I was young. You say:

- ☐ A Es bijī jauna.
- ☐ B Es biju jauna.

9 The birthday is on twenty-eight March. You say:

- ☐ A Dzimšanas diena ir divdesmit astotajā martā.
- ☐ B Dzimšanas diena ir divdesmit astotajā marts.

10 Jānis has black hair. You say:

- ☐ A Jānim ir melnas mati.
- ☐ B Jānim ir melni mati.

G8) ONE MORE MIXED MESSAGE SET

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

jaunāka jaunāks

Man ir _____ brālis.

Meaning: I have a younger brother.

jums mums

Tas ir _____.

Meaning: That is for us.

biju bijāt

Lukas: Jūs _____jauns.

Meaning: You were young, polite.

biju bijāt

Lena: Jūs _____jauna.

Meaning: You were young, polite.

jauni jauns

Lukas: Es esmu _____.

Meaning: I am young.

jauni jauna

Lena: Es esmu _____.

Meaning: I am young.