

Latvian for Beginners

Practical Learning with SynapseLingo

Tobias Hartmann

January 2, 2026

Copyright

© 2026 Innov-AI-tive GmbH. All rights reserved.

Author: Tobias Hartmann

Contributor: Synapse Lingo AI Tools (human-supervised)

ISBN Print: 978-3-69263-097-7

ISBN eBook: 978-3-69263-096-0

ISBN Audiobook: 978-3-69263-098-4

This book is for informational purposes only and does not replace professional advice.

AI Development Notice: This e-book was developed with AI-assisted tools and subsequently editorially reviewed to ensure the highest learning quality.

Additional Training Materials

Enhance your learning experience with our interactive on-line training materials and audio resources.

Access your interactive language trainer:

http://app.synapse-lingo.de/language-trainer/en_lv/index.html



Scan the QR code or click the link to go directly to your interactive trainer.

This interactive trainer includes:

- Full audio version of this book
- Audio pronunciation guides
- Interactive exercises

-
- Additional vocabulary practice
 - Progress tracking

Simply click the link or enter the URL in your web browser to access these supplementary materials.

Contents

Additional Training Materials	3
1 Lesson 1: English – Latvian: have = ir – From man ir to viņiem ir	8
2 Lesson 2: English – Latvian: Learn 'to be' būt – From I am to They Are	13
3 Lesson 3: Go = iet: English – Latvian Quick Conjugation	17
4 Lesson 4: English – Latvian: Can = varēt – I can, you can, we can	21
5 Lesson 5: English – Latvian Verbs: make taisīt \ do darīt – Quick, Fun Mastery	26
6 Lesson 6: Learn Latvian Fast: I had man bija, have būt	31
7 Lesson 7: English – Latvian Past Tense: I was – es biju	36
8 Lesson 8: English – Latvian: I went – es gāju (Past of iet)	41

9 Lesson 9: Learn make \ do in Latvian: taisīt vs darīt	46
10 Lesson 10: English – Latvian: Will Have – I will have man būs	51
11 Lesson 11: English – Latvian Future Tense: I will be = es būšu	56
12 Lesson 12: English – Latvian Future Tense: I will go – es iešu	60
13 Lesson 13: English – Latvian Future Tense: 'I will do' = es darīšu	65
14 Lesson 14: English – Latvian Travel Phrases: Is there ...? – Vai ir ...?	70
15 Lesson 15: English – Latvian: Is there ...? = Vai ir ...? – Quick Travel Phrase	76
16 Lesson 16: Learn Latvian: May I ...? – Vai drīkstu ...? Polite Requests	81
17 Lesson 17: English – Latvian: I need ... = man vajag ... – Quick Requests	86
18 Lesson 18: English – Latvian Travel Phrase: Where is ...? = Kur ir ...?	90
19 Lesson 19: Learn Latvian: What is ...? = Kas ir ...? (English – Latvian)	94
20 Lesson 20: English – Latvian: How much does ... cost? = Cik maksā ...?	98

21 Lesson 21: English – Latvian: I would like ... = Es vēlētos ...	102
22 Lesson 22: Learn 'Can you ... ?' in Latvian: Vai tu vari ... ?	107
23 Lesson 23: English to Latvian: Can you ... ? – Vai jūs varat ... ?	112
About the Author	117
Stay in Touch	118

Lesson 1

Lesson 1: English – Latvian: have = ir – From man ir to viņiem ir

This English – Latvian mini-podcast shows how English 'have' is expressed as ir using the natural dative pattern. Practice the core forms – man ir, tev ir, viņam ir, viņai ir, tam ir, mums ir, jums ir, viņiem ir – with clear examples, rhythm drills, and quick quizzes. Ideal for beginners and travelers who want confident everyday usage.

Welcome to SynapseLingo

Hey you, du-mode engaged! This podcast is brought to you by SynapseLingo – grab more tools at www.synapse-lingo.com.

Today you'll nail how English 'have' maps to Latvian ir with friendly, funny drills and real talk. Ready? Let's glow up your Latvian!

Your goal today

In minutes, you'll use every form like a pro – out loud, confidently.

Target checklist: ir; man ir; tev ir; viņam ir; viņai ir; tam ir; mums ir; jums ir; viņiem ir. Keep your voice smiling!

Forms in action

Say them with me – big breath, clear rhythm.

- Key idea: have = ir.
- I have – man ir coffee.
- You have (sing.) – tev ir a map.
- He has – viņam ir a bike.
- She has – viņai ir time.
- It has – tam ir a camera.
- We have – mums ir tickets.
- You have (pl.) – jums ir snacks.
- They have – viņiem ir ideas.
- Nice! You just toured the whole set.

Mini dialogue

Listen first, then echo each Latvian line with flair.

- A: Do you have time? B: Yes, man ir laiks.
- A: Great, we have tickets. B: Mums ir biļetes.

- A: Does he have keys? B: Viņam ir atslēgas.
- A: And she has a plan. B: Viņai ir plāns.
- A: The phone – does it have NFC? B: Jā, tam ir NFC.
- A: Team, you have snacks? Crowd: Jums ir uzkodas!
- A: Perfect, they have energy. B: Viņiem ir enerģija!

Rhythm drill

Clap on each 'ir'. I say English; you fire the Latvian.

- I have... man ir!
- You have (sing.)... tev ir!
- He has... viņam ir!
- She has... viņai ir!
- It has... tam ir!
- We have... mums ir!
- You have (pl.)... jums ir!
- They have... viņiem ir!
- Final beat: have = ir. Boom.

Quick quiz

Pop quiz – answer out loud, then check yourself.

- I have a book → - - - - grāmata. Man ir grāmata.
- Do you (sing.) have time? → Vai - - - - laiks? tev ir.

-
- He has a bike → - - - - velosipēds. Viņam ir velosipēds.
 - She has energy → - - - - enerģija. Viņai ir enerģija.
 - It has a camera → - - - - kamera. Tam ir kamera.
 - We have tickets → - - - - biļetes. Mums ir biļetes.
 - You (pl.) have maps → - - - - kartes. Jums ir kartes.
 - They have a car → - - - - mašīna. Viņiem ir mašīna.

Culture tip

Sound natural with one golden rule.

Latvian doesn't use a 'have' verb; it uses 'to me/you/etc. is' with ir: I have = man ir. For 'it has', avoid 'it is' (tas ir); say tam ir. Bonus negation: nav – e.g., I don't have time = man nav laika. Tiny change, huge upgrade!

Final challenge

Speed round – fill the blanks, then confirm.

- 1) We check our pockets: - - - - atslēgas. Mums ir atslēgas.
- 2) Point at your friend: - - - - biļete, viss kārtībā. Tev ir biļete, viss kārtībā.
- 3) About the gadget: - - - - liels ekrāns. Tam ir liels ekrāns.
- 4) The team confirms: - - - - plāns un - - - - laiks. Viņiem ir plāns un viņiem ir laiks.
- 5) You to the group: - - - - mūsu atbalsts! Jums ir mūsu atbalsts!

Thanks from SynapseLingo

You crushed it – high five!

Today you mastered have = ir across all forms: man ir, tev ir, viņam ir, viņai ir, tam ir, mums ir, jums ir, viņiem ir. Thanks for listening! Keep practicing daily, share your wins, and visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more lessons, drills, and laughs. See you next episode!

Lesson 2

Lesson 2: English – Latvian: Learn 'to be' būs – From I am to They Are

Master the English – Latvian verb 'to be' = būs in a fun, friendly mini-lesson. Practice key forms for real talk: es esmu, tu esi, viņš ir, viņa ir, tas ir, mēs esam, jūs esat, viņi ir. Ideal for beginners learning Latvian from English with dialogues, echo drills, a quick quiz, and culture tips. Key-words: Learn Latvian, English to Latvian, Latvian verb būs, Latviešu valoda.

Welcome – SynapseLingo

Hey you, welcome! This podcast is brought to you by SynapseLingo – visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more resources.

Grab your headphones and your smile; today we level up 'to be' in Latvian with jokes, quick drills, and tiny wins.

Your goal today: bût

We'll nail the core forms of 'to be' – repeat out loud and keep it playful.

- to be = bût
- I am = es esmu
- you are (sing.) = tu esi
- he is = viņš ir
- she is = viņa ir
- it is = tas ir
- we are = mēs esam
- you are (pl./polite) = jūs esat
- they are = viņi ir

Funny mini-dialogue

Listen in and echo the bold parts – yes, you can ham it up.

- A: In this game, **tu esi the leader.**
- B: Great, because **es esmu ready!**
- A: Who's that at the door?
- B: **viņš ir the courier; and the singer? viņa ir early.**
- A: And the cake?
- B: **tas ir mine... kidding!**
- A: Classic question: **Bût or nebût?**

-
- B: Today, mēs esam brave, jūs esat awesome, and viņi ir on their way.

Echo drill

Repeat after me; keep your rhythm and confidence high.

- Say it: es esmu.
- Now you: tu esi.
- Point and say: viņš ir.
- About her: viņa ir.
- Point to the thing: tas ir.
- Group power: mēs esam.
- Address the team: jūs esat.
- About the crowd: viņi ir.
- Core verb check: būt.

Culture tip

A quick Latvian vibe check for real-life moments.

Latvians love crisp truth: say Tas ir, kas ir to mean 'it is what it is.' Hamlet goes Baltic as Būt vai nebūt – you'll see it on posters and memes. Touring a city, you'll point and hear tas ir muzejs – 'it is the museum.'

Quiz time

Answer aloud; tiny pause, then I reveal the answer.

- How do you say 'I am'? Answer: es esmu.
- Translate 'you are' to a friend (singular). Answer: tu esi.
- Say 'she is' in Latvian. Answer: viņa ir.
- Complete: They are ready – Answer: viņi ir gatavi.
- What is 'to be' (infinitive)? Answer: būt.

Speak the challenge

Now you build short, real sentences – go for it.

- We are friends: say mēs esam draugi.
- Address your team politely: jūs esat čempioni.
- Introduce them: viņš ir skolotājs, viņa ir ārste.
- Point with confidence: tas ir muzejs.
- Bonus presence line: es esmu šeit.

Goodbye – SynapseLingo

You did great – clean forms, strong voice.

Thanks for listening! Keep practicing these tiny phrases every day, and revisit this episode anytime. Brought to you by SynapseLingo; for more lessons, games, and downloads, visit www.synapse-lingo.com.

Lesson 3

Lesson 3: Go = iet: English – Latvian Quick Conjugation

Brought to you by SynapseLingo, this fun English – Latvian mini-lesson drills the verb “go” = iet with real-life lines and laughs. Learn, practice, and remember key forms: es eju, tu ej, viņš iet, viņa iet, mēs ejam, jūs ejat, viņi iet, plus the mood phrase tā nekas. Perfect for quick reps, pronunciation, and everyday phrases; Englisch Lettisch lernen, Verb “go” Bedeutung, Latvian basics, conversation ready.

Welcome to SynapseLingo

Hey you, ready to level up your Latvian? This episode is brought to you by SynapseLingo – grab more goodies at www.synapse-lingo.com.

Today you'll master “go” = iet in friendly, fast drills – short, funny, and super useful. Let's step into it!

Your goal today

By the end, you'll say every key form with confidence. Say them with me once to prime your brain.

- Base verb: iet.
- I go: es eju. You (sing.) go: tu ej.
- He goes: viņš iet. She goes: viņa iet.
- We go: mēs ejam. You (pl.) go: jūs ejat.
- They go: viņi iet. Mood check word: so-so = tā nekas.

Quick conjugation beat

Clap your hands or tap your desk; one line per beat. Ready, go!

- Go (base) – iet.
- I go – es eju.
- You go (sing.) – tu ej.
- He goes – viņš iet.
- She goes – viņa iet.
- We go – mēs ejam.
- You go (plural) – jūs ejat.
- They go – viņi iet.
- And if your energy is just so-so – say tā nekas and keep going.

Funny hallway dialogue

Let's act it out – smile, exaggerate, and repeat the Latvian.

- You: “Are we leaving?” – “Yes, mēs ejam!”
- You (to a friend): “Hey, you first – tu ej. I'll follow.”
- Spotting your crew: “Look – viņi iet to the café already!”
- Checking on your day: “How's life?” – “Hmm... tā nekas. Let's still move.”
- Announcer voice: “jūs ejat to Platform 3; the hero arrives – viņš iet boldly; and the star – viņa iet with style!”
- Final cue: “Alright team, mēs ejam!”

Culture tip: Foot or wheels?

A tiny tip so you sound natural.

Use *iet* when you go on foot. If you go by car, bus, or train, you'll hear *braukt*. On a Riga stroll, you'll say things like “After dinner, mēs ejam by the river,” but if you take the tram, you'd say you *braucat* – ride, not walk.

Mini quiz time

Answer out loud; I'll pause, then confirm.

- Q1: “They go” in Latvian? A1: viņi iet.
- Q2: “You go” plural? A2: jūs ejat.
- Q3: Base verb “to go”? A3: iet.

- Q4: “I go” on foot? A4: es eju.
- Q5: So-so mood phrase? A5: tā nekas.

Challenge: Step and say

Stand up. With each step, say the form. Go!

- Step 1: es eju. Step 2: tu ej.
- Step 3: viņš iet. Step 4: viņa iet.
- Step 5: mēs ejam. Step 6: jūs ejat. Step 7: viņi iet.
- Breather line: Feeling tā nekas? Smile and repeat the whole chain once more!

Wrap-up

Nice work – you moved your mouth and your feet!

Today you nailed “go” = iet and the full crew: es eju, tu ej, viņš iet, viņa iet, mēs ejam, jūs ejat, viņi iet – plus tā nekas for a so-so day. Thanks for listening! Keep practicing daily, and visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more lessons, drills, and laughs. Brought to you by SynapseLingo.