

BI versus IS - A Reminder

Hopefully by this point, you are familiar with the verb 'IS' - 'to be.' As a reminder, here it is again. You can't review it enough!

	Bi	English	Is	English
Present Tense	<i>Tha sibh... .</i>	<i>You are... .</i>	<i>Is sibhse... .</i>	<i>You are... .</i>
	<i>Chan eil mi... .</i>	<i>I am not... .</i>	<i>Cha ☁ mhise... .</i>	<i>I am not... .</i>
	<i>A bheil thu... ?</i>	<i>Are you... ?</i>	<i>An ☁ tusa... ?</i>	<i>Are you... ?</i>
	<i>Nach eil i... ?</i>	<i>Isn't she... ?</i>	<i>Nach ☁ ise... ?</i>	<i>Isn't she... ?</i>
Past Tense	<i>Bha sibh... .</i>	<i>You were... .</i>	<i>Bu sibhse... .</i>	<i>You were... .</i>
	<i>Cha robh mi... .</i>	<i>I was not... .</i>	<i>Cha bu mhise... .</i>	<i>I was not... .</i>
	<i>An robh thu... ?</i>	<i>Were you... ?</i>	<i>Am bu tusa... ?</i>	<i>Were you... ?</i>
	<i>Nach robh i... ?</i>	<i>Wasn't she... ?</i>	<i>Nach bu ise... ?</i>	<i>Wasn't she... ?</i>
Future Tense	<i>Bithidh sibh... .</i>	<i>You will be... .</i>		
	<i>Cha bhi mi... .</i>	<i>I will not be... .</i>		
	<i>Am bi thu... ?</i>	<i>Will you be... ?</i>		
	<i>Nach bi sibh... ?</i>	<i>Will you not be... ?</i>		

Notice the following points:

1. Always remember: **BI DESCRIBES, IS DEFINES OR EMPHASIZES.**
2. 'IS' frequently is used with an 'augment' - e. ('S e, Chan e, An e, Nach e)
3. 'IS' likes to use the emphatic pronouns.
4. There is no future tense ('IS' is a defective verb).
5. No letters represent 'IS' in the present dependent forms ('Is' is a decaying verb).

This is why I use the ☁ where the verb form would normally go. It is not a problem in the past tense, when 'BU' appears.

Check out my Book of IS for the complete story, available in the downloads section at <http://www.gaelicseattle.com>.