

"To be or not to be..." William Shakespeare

What do you think Shakespeare was exactly thinking about when he was saying these words? Did he only want to (or not) exist? Or is "being" something more than only "existing"? Can it be an action?

Look, recently I had this conversation with my girlfriend:

S: *Honey, you **are** wonderful!*

MG: *Oh, Stanley! You **are** so cute.*

S: *But Honey, do you have any idea how beautiful you **are**?*

MG: *Huh...*

S: *You **are** the best in the world! One in a million!*

MG: *Now I understand... Stop playing your games! What's happening!/? You **are being** too nice... Why **are you being** so nice to me? What do you want!/?*

S: *I'm hungry...*

Yeah she got me...

Look, when I say: "You are wonderful!" or "You are beautiful.", I refer to the **character** of her. It is true that it is rather an opinion than a fact, yet it seems she is fairly unlikely to change from wonderful or beautiful to nasty or ugly – oh, at least I hope so.

On the other hand... When she tells me: "You are being too nice.", she clearly refers to my **behaviour** at this moment of history. By no means does she refer to my character, which I will need to reflect upon.

sb is + adjective	to describe character
sb is being + adjective	to describe behaviour

Have a look at these sentence and try to speak about somebody's behaviour or character:

- 1) You will like her. She _____ (be) very friendly.
- 2) She _____ (be) very friendly to me at the moment, I wonder what she wants from me.
- 3) You _____ (be) usually a reasonable person. Why _____ you _____ (be) so unreasonable now?
- 4) If you _____ (be not) good to me, you will not get any presents next birthday!
- 5) You _____ (be) bad to me so I'm not going to sleep with you today.
- 6) (*a sarcastic and unhappy wife*) Honey! Buying a Sports Channel for my birthday present was a fantastic idea! _____ you _____ (be) serious?
- 7) Today, she doesn't want to share her toys. She _____ (be) selfish.
- 8) - "We haven't finished the shopping yet. Why _____ you _____ (be) so childish?" - "I want to watch the match!"