**是vs. 很**

If we translate 很 （hěn）into English, 很 literally means “very, quite”. However, it is often used before adjectives and its meaning is simply “to be”. Here is the Chinese vocabulary study guide 很.

**很** （hěn）**vs 是　（**Shì )

Both 很 and 是 can be translated into “to be”. The difference is that 是 is used in front of nouns and 很 in front of adjectives.

The sentence structures are

**Noun + 是 + noun**

**Noun + 很 + Adj.**

For example,

*我是学生。Wǒ shì xuéshēng. I am a student.*

*他是老师。Tā shì lǎoshī.He is a teacher.*

*他很高。Tā hěn gāo.He is tall.*

*爸爸很累。Bàba hěn lèi. Dad is tired.*

Note:  A common mistake Chinese students make is using 是 instead of 很 in front of adjectives. Such as

*他是高。    Wrong Tā shì gāo.He is tall.*

*他很高。  Right Tā hěn gāo.He is tall.*