

# Is It or Isn't It an Eel?



All eels are fish, but not all fish are eels. Having a long, skinny body doesn't always mean the animal is an eel. There are many fish that have body shapes like an eel but are actually other kinds of fish. Use the characteristics below to decide whether it is or isn't an eel.

## Eels:

- No (or highly reduced) pectoral fins or pelvic fins.
- Sharp teeth pointing inward to help catch prey.
- Siphon or tube-like gill structure (no flat gill cover).
- Prefer warm-water environments.



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