

Level 2 - VERBO SER ó ESTAR – Tiempo Presente



- ✓ SER o ESTAR are verbs in Spanish that can be translated as in the verb “to be.”
- ✓ Spanish is a very precise language. When you use SER you are speaking of someone or something permanently in Spanish. For example, I am Karen (permanent), I am a teacher (permanent), I am a Canadian (permanent).
- ✓ By contrast, you use ESTAR to denotes something that is not permanent, like **location, feelings/mood/states**. i.e. I am at the WECC (non-permanent), I am hot/cold (non-permanent), I am happy/sad/hungry (non-permanent), do you see the difference between SER and ESTAR?

Following is the conjugation for the verb SER OR ESTAR (to be)- **in the present tense**.

SER (Permanent)	
Yo SOY	I am
Tú ERES	You are(informal)
Usted ES	You are (formal)
El, ella ES	He/she Is
Nosotros SOMOS	We are
Ustedes SON	You are (Latin America)
Vosotros SOIS	You are (Spain)
Ellos/ellas SON	They are

SER refers to permanent conditions like shape, nationality, place of origin.

Por ejemplo:

Soy hombre (I am a man)

Soy de Winnipeg (I am from Winnipeg)

Ellos son muy altos (They are very tall)
 Ustedes son Uruguayos? (Are you – formal- Uruguayan?)
 Ella es maestra (She’s a teacher)
 Eres muy bella (You are very beautiful)
 Eres muy gentil (You are very kind)

ESTAR (non-permanent)		
		<u>Pronunciation</u>
Yo ESTOY	I am	yoh ehs-tohy
Tú ESTÁS (informal)	You are	too ehs-tahs
Usted ESTÁ (formal)	You are	oos-tehd ehs-tah
Él/ella ESTÁ	He/she is	ehl, eh-yah, eh-yoh,
Nosotros ESTAMOS	We are	noh-soh-trohs ehs-tah-mohs
Ustedes ESTÁN	You are (Latin A)	oos-tehdehs ehs-tahn
Vosotros ESTÁIS	You are (Spain)	bvoh soh trohs ehs tahees
Ellos/ellas ESTÁN	They are	eh-yohs, eh-yahs, ehs-than

Práctica 1 - “Repeat after me” then practice with a partner

OJO!!! Simple little trick:
ESTAR - PLACE - positions, locations, actions, conditions, emotions.
SER - DOCTOR - Descriptions, occupations, characteristics, time, origin, religion.

Study tip: These two verbs are helping verbs, and their conjugations must be memorized. A useful strategy is to make flashcards and study these regularly. You don’t need to study for long periods of time, but you do need to study these often - even if you only study them for 3-4 minutes at a time.

Let’s watch a video from **Why not Spanish** – “Escogerías Ser o Estar?” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mpU9mMNtmQ>

The following practices will help you understand the use of these verbs

Práctica 2 - ESTAR (emotion)

Juan - ¿Cómo están ustedes? How are you?

Sr. Lara - Estamos bien gracias (We’re very well, thank you)

Juan - ¿Están de paseo? Are you taking a walk?

Sra. Lara - Estamos de vacaciones (We’re on vacation)

Juan - ¿Están contentos? (Are you content?)

Sra. Lara – Estamos muy felices (We’re very happy)

Juan - ¿Cómo está su hija? (How is your daughter?)

Sra. Lara - Más o menos, no está muy feliz (so, so, she's not very happy)

Práctica 3 - SER (location)

Alberto: Y usted Olimpia? De que Ciudad es? (and you Olimpia, what city are you from?)

Olimpia: Soy de Langley, en la provincia Británica (I am from Langley, in the province of BC)

Alberto: ¿Es una ciudad grande? (Is that a big city?)

Olimpia: no, es un pueblo chico, pero muy bonito. Y usted Alberto, de dónde es?

(It's a small town, but very nice, and you Alberto where are you from?)

Alberto: Yo soy de Burnaby, bueno, esta es también una ciudad chica.

(I am from Burnaby, well, this is also a small city).

Olimpia: Para nada!, es bastante grande. (Not at all, it's quite big)

Práctica 4 - ESTAR (to denote something with a changeable estate)

Miriam - ¿Está libre el baño? (Is the bathroom free?)

Guillermo - No, está ocupado (No, it's busy)

Miriam - ¿Esta libre el otro baño? (Is the other bathroom free?)

Guillermo- Si, está libre

Miriam - Yes, it's free

Práctica 5 - SER y ESTAR Dialogue

Now it's your turn to practice using a basic conversational dialogue, see if you tell the difference between SER and ESTAR. Work with a partner

Jorge - Hola, me llamo Jorge (hello my name is)

Maribel- Es un placer (it's a pleasure)

Jorge - Mucho gusto, yo soy de Vancouver, de donde es usted?

(pleased to meet you, i am from Vancouver, where are you from – formal)

Maribel - Yo soy de Méjico

Jorge - ah, que bueno.

✓ When you know someone a bit better, you can use the informal "tú":

Práctica 5 - SER y ESTAR Dialogue using (Tu)

Jorge - ¿Dónde vives? (where do you live?)

Maribel - Vivo en Monterey (I live in Monterey)

De cuál ciudad eres tú? (What city are you from?)

Jorge - Soy de Chicago, Illinois (I am from Chicago, Illinois)

Maribel - ¿En dónde trabajas (tú)? (Where do you work?)

Jorge - Trabajo en el banco (I work at the bank)

Maribel - ¿En qué trabajas tú? (What do you do?)

Jorge - Trabajo en los computadores (I work with computers)

Maribel - ¿Tus hijos estan a la escuela? (Are your children in school?)

Jorge - Si, son buenos estudiantes (yes, they're good students) **O** (or)

Jorge - No tengo hijos (I don't have children)

Listen to **SenoritaBach** "Ser Vs. Estar Taio Cruz – Dynamite" on Youtube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oaM_SBdbjLk (song 5:11 mins)

PRONUNCIACIÓN Y USO DE LOS VERBOS SER Y ESTAR (Pronunciation and uses of verbs SER and ESTAR)

You have learned the fundamental difference between SER and ESTAR – essence or condition. The examples used the verbs in conjunction with adjectives to clearly illustrate this point. However, in practice, SER and ESTAR are not always used with adjectives, nor is it always easy for the non-native speakers to choose between the two verbs. Therefore, it is extremely useful to learn some concrete rules for deciding when to use SER or ESTAR. We are going to examine some common uses for the VERB SER.

Ser is used to express the **hour, day, and date.**

¿Qué hora es?	What time is it?
Son las dos.	It's two o'clock
¿Qué día es hoy?	What day is today?
Hoy es jueves.	Today is Thursday.
¿Qué fecha es hoy?	What is the date today?
Es el nueve de noviembre.	It is November ninth.

SER is used to express **place of origin.**

¿De dónde eres tú?	Where are you from?
Soy de Honduras.	I am from Honduras.

SER is used to express **occupation.**

¿Cuál es tu trabajo?	What do you do?
Soy maestra.	I am a teacher.

SER is used to express **nationality.**

¿Es ella peruana?	Is she Peruvian?
No, ella es colombiana.	No, she is Colombian.

SER is used to express **religious or political affiliation.**

¿Son los Lara mormones?	Are the Lara's Mormons?
No, son católicos.	No, they are Catholics.
¿Es el gobierno socialista?	Is the government socialist?
No, es comunista.	No, it is communist.

Ser is used to say what **something is made of.**

¿De qué material es la mesa?	What is the table made of?
Es de madera.	It is made of wood.

Ser is used to express **possession.**

¿De quién es la pluma?
Es de José.

Whose pen is this?
The pen is Jose's.

Ser is used to express the **relationship of one person to another.**

¿Quién es Rogelio?
Es el esposo de Marta

Who is Roger?
He is Martha's husband.

Ser is used with **certain impersonal expressions.**

Es importante practicar cada día.
Es necesario hablar mucho.

It is important to practice every day.
It is necessary to speak a lot.

Ser is used to tell **where an event is taking place.**

La película es en el Cine Roxy

The movie is at the Roxy theater.

Ser is used with adjectives to express **inherent, or essential qualities.**

Miguel es un hombre sincero.

Mike is a sincere man.

Roberto es guapo.

Robert is handsome.

At - home - practice

* **M Meehan Spanish Videos** - "Spanish Song for 'Ser' and 'Estar' uses and conjugation in the Present tense"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJzhSQRY6N4>

* **SlusionProductions** - "Spanish Ser Vs. Estar Rap"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IY10_T_ROq4

* Ser Vs. Estar Ser o estar - **Worksheet La familia moderna**

* Ser o estar - **Crossword**

* Ser o estar - **Fill-in chart**

* Ser o estar - **conjugation worksheet**

* Ser o estar - **notes and worksheet**

* Ser o estar - **PartnerActivityandQuiz**