

SER / ESTAR

In Spanish there are two verbs that are used to express being: Ser and Estar. Both verbs are translated to mean “to be”, though they are used in different contexts.

SER - to be

soy	somos
eres	sois
es	son

ESTAR - to be

estoy	estamos
estás	estáis
está	están

Uses of SER:

1. To show a PERMANENT condition
2. To express origin and nationality
3. To express ownership
4. To describe or identify the subject
5. To express the time and date
6. To express the material something is made of

Uses of ESTAR:

1. To show a TEMPORARY condition
2. To express health
3. To indicate location

PN + Ser/Estar + Adjective

We previously learned that we can use the verb *ser* in a conjugated form followed by an adjective to describe someone. The same thing can be used with the verb '*estar*'.

When using the PN + to be + adj. = CS construction, we must keep in mind the intent of the verb '*to be*'. Look at the following examples.

SER

Yo soy feliz.

I am happy. (trait)

Nosotros somos aburridos.

We are boring.

Tú eres blanco.

You are white. (trait)

ESTAR

Yo estoy feliz.

I am happy. (state of being)

Nosotros estamos aburridos.

We are bored.

Tú estás blanco.

You look pale. (right now)

We can form many sentences whose meaning changes with the substitution of *ser* or *estar*.

When writing sentences and you choose to use a noun instead of a pronoun, remember that singular nouns fit under the '*él/ella/ud.*' category (3rd person, singular) for verb conjugation. Plural nouns fit under the '*ellos/ellas/ustedes*' category (3rd person, plural) for verb conjugation.

→ el perro (es / está)

→ los perros (son / están)