

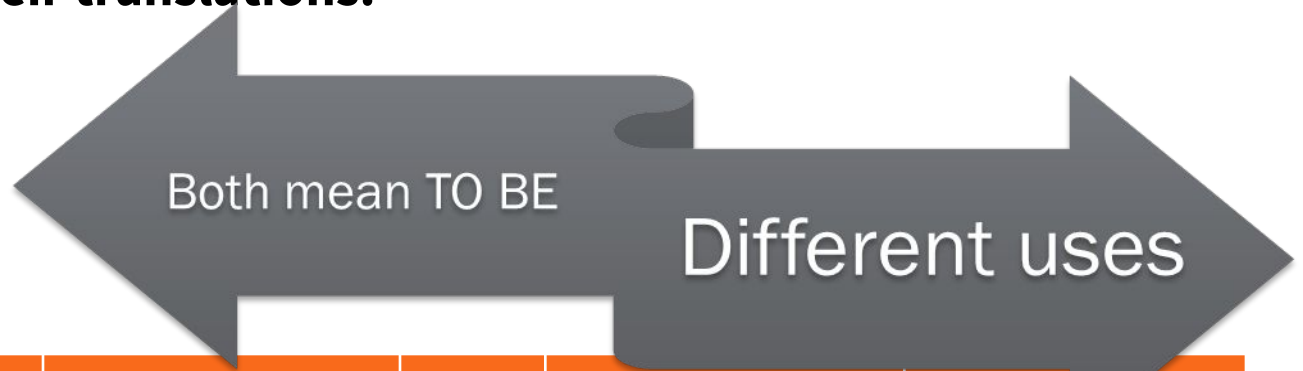
SER VS. ESTAR
TO BE OR NOT TO BE?



Shakespeare

SER AND ESTAR ARE BOTH TO BE VERBS

We have already learned that there are two “to be” verbs in Spanish. Here they are along with their conjugations. Please write them down along with their translations:

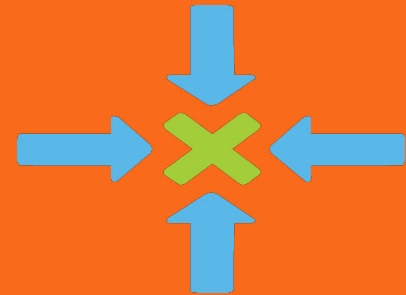


SER	TO BE		ESTAR	TO BE
Yo SOY	Nosotros SOMOS		Yo estoy	Nosotros estamos
Tú ERES	Vosotros SOIS		Tú estás	Vosotros estáis
Él ES Ella ES Usted ES	Ellos SON Ellas SON Ustedes SON		Él está Ella está Usted está	Ellos están Ellas están Ustedes están

HOW DO I REMEMBER?

Use the Acronyms DOCTOR and PLACE

The followings slides will tell use what those stand for.



SER – GENERAL RULE

General Ser Rule

Ser is used to classify and identify permanent or lasting attributes. If the general rule isn't specific enough for you, think of the acronym **DOCTOR**, which stands for **D**escription, **O**ccupation, **C**haracteristic, **T**ime, **O**rigin, and **R**elationship.

As with any rule, there may be exceptions to the permanent vs. temporary state of being, but it is a place to start when deciding which verb to use in Spanish.



DOCTOR SER- D IS FOR DESCRIPTION

For description, think of what you would say if someone asked you "What ´s he like?" These are the essential qualities that define a person and probably won ´t change. They can be a name or a physical description.

Yo **soy** Raúl. (*I **am** Raúl.*)

Ella **es** baja, rubia y seria.

(*She **is** short, blonde, and serious.*)



DOCTOR SER O IS FOR OCCUPATION

Occupations are seen as life-long careers and are therefore seen as more "permanent" than many people would think in the United States.

Soy maestra del español. (*I **am** a Spanish teacher.*)

Ellos **son** estudiantes. (*They **are** students.*)

Mi padre **es** camarero. (*My father **is** a waiter.*)

No Indefinite Articles

Notice that the indefinite articles **un, una, unos,** and **unas** are **omitted** when describing an occupation after the verb **ser**



DOCTOR SER- C IS FOR CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristics are personality descriptions of a person. These would probably be the second thing you say to "What ´s he like?"

Amalia **es** inteligente, bonita, y amable. (*Amelia **is** intelligent, pretty, and friendly.*)

Mi esposo **es** romántico y cariñoso. (*My husband **is** romantic and caring.*)



DOCTOR SER – T IS FOR TIME

Time includes days, dates, and hours. For hours, use **es** for one o'clock and **son** for all other hours.

Hoy **es** lunes, el veintisiete de febrero. (*Today **is** Monday, February 27th.*)

Mañana es mi cumpleaños. (*Tomorrow is my birthday.*)

Ahora **es** la una y media. (*Right now **it's** one thirty.*)

Son las cinco y veinticinco. (***It's** five twenty five.*)



DOCTOR SER – O #2 IS FOR ORIGIN

As the place a person is from or the material something is made from is not going to change we use ser for origin.

Celia **es** de España. (*Celia **is** from Spain.*)

Adela **es** mexicana. (*Adela **is** Mexican.*)

Mi anillo **es** de oro. (*My ring **is** gold.*)



DOCTOR SER R IS FOR RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships are described with the verb SER

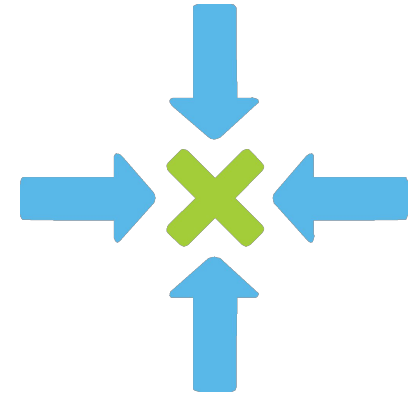
Lynn **es** mi madre. (*Lynn **is** my mother.*)

Marcos **es** mi ex-novio. (*Marcos **is** my ex-boyfriend.*)

Andrés **es** mi hermano. (*Andre is my brother.*)



ESTAR IS THE PLACE TO BE!



General Estar Rule

Estar is used to indicate temporary states and locations. If the general rule doesn't suffice, think of the acronym **PLACE**, which stands for

Position, **L**ocation, **A**ction, **C**ondition, and **E**motion.

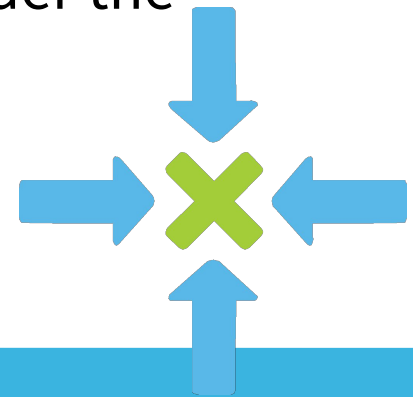
ESTAR IS THE PLACE – P IS FOR POSITION

1. Position

Position is the physical position or posture a person or thing is in.

Mi abuela **está** sentada. (*My grandmother **is** sitting down/seated.*)

El libro **está debajo de** la mesa. (The book is under the table.)



ESTAR IS THE PLACE TO BE – L IS FOR LOCATION

The location of someone or something describes where it is permanently, temporarily, actually, or conceptually.

El baño **está** al lado de la cafetería. (*The bathroom **is next to the cafeteria.***)

Estamos en el café ahora y vamos a estar en el cine en 20 minutos. (*We **are** at the café right now and we **will be** at the movie theatre in 20 minutes.*)

Madrid está en España. (Madrid is in Spain.)

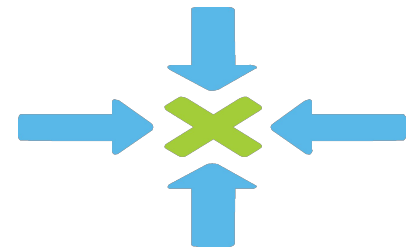
ESTAR IS THE PLACE TO BE A IS FOR ACTION

Estar is used to describe an ongoing action using the present progressive tense. (You will learn more about that later 😊)

Estoy lavando los platos sucios. (*I **am** washing the dirty dishes.*)

Estamos leyendo los periódicos. (*We **are** reading the newspapers.*)

*Mi bisabuelo **está** muerto.* (*My great-grandfather **is** dead.*)



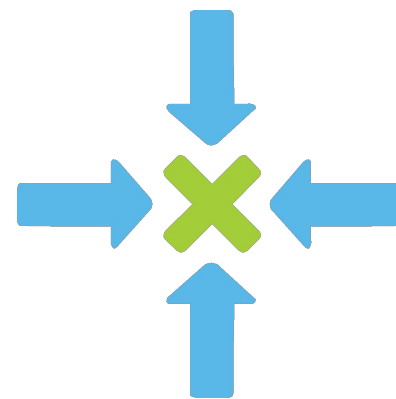
ESTAR IS THE PLACE TO BE- C IS FOR CONDITION

Physical and mental conditions are described using *estar*.

Estoy tan cansada esta mañana. (*I **am** so tired this morning.*)

Mis niños **están** enfermos hoy. (*My children **are** sick today.*)

Mi madre **está** un poca loca. (*My mother **is** (acting) a little crazy.*)

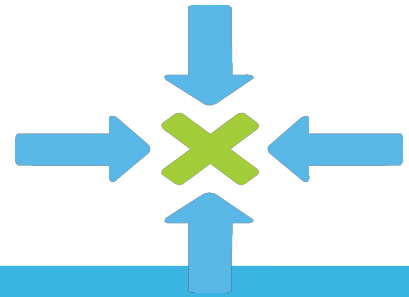


ESTAR IS THE PLACE TO BE – E IS FOR EMOTION

How a person is feeling at a certain moment is described using *estar*. Emotions can change.

Estoy triste. (*I **am** sad.*)

Ella **está** contenta porque recibió unas flores de su novio.
(*She **is** happy because she received some flowers from her boyfriend.*)



USE DOCTOR SER OR ESTAR IS THE PLACE TO BE

If all else fails remember this rhyme:

**HOW YOU FEEL AND WHERE
YOU ARE ALWAYS USE THE
VERB ESTAR!!!**

**WHO ARE YOU? ARE YOU
FROM THERE? THAT'S
WHEN YOU USE THE VERBO
SER!!!**