



## Pop Quiz: Are These Correct or Incorrect?

Below are the sentences using ser and estar that we'll review in the video. Indicate whether each sentence is correct or incorrect.

1. Ella **es** Laura.
2. Aquí **es** mi casa.
3. La mesa **está** de madera.
4. Yo **soy** leyendo.
5. Yo **soy** en la escuela.
6. La fiesta **está** en mi casa.
7. La torre Eiffel **es** en París.
8. Laura **es** muy amable.
9. Sus hermanos **son** dormidos.
10. El árbol **es** muerto.

## Ser: Distinctive Uses

### Use #1: Identifying People & Things

Is sentence #1 correct?

Ella **es** Laura.  
*She is Laura.*

**CORRECT**

- **Identify** people or things.
  - Pointing out.
  - Introducing people.
  - Expressing possession or relationships.

Hola, yo **soy** Daniela y ella **es** Laura. **Es** mi vecina.  
Tú eres el hermano de Juan, ¿verdad?  
*Hi, I'm Daniela and this is Laura. She's my neighbor.  
You're Juan's brother, right?*



Is sentence #2 correct?

Aquí **es** mi casa.  
*This is my house.*

**CORRECT**

**Pro Tip:** In some cases, we choose 'ser' or 'estar' based on what we need to emphasize.

## Use #2: Material of something

- Use **ser** + **de** + **[noun]** to express the material of something.
  - Types, ingredients, genre.

Is sentence #3 correct?

La mesa **está** de madera.  
*The table is made of wood.*

**INCORRECT**

La mesa **es de** madera.  
*The table is made of wood.*

**CORRECT**

Esa pizza **es de** pepperoni.  
*That pizza is pepperoni.*

## Use #3: Origin & Nationality

- Origin can also refer to the source where an object comes from.

**Ser** + **de** + **[noun]**

Alex **es de** Bogotá.  
*Alex is from Bogotá.*

# Ser vs Estar Lesson Notes



## Ser + [adjective]

Alex **es** colombiano.

*Alex is Colombian.*

Mi vestido **es de** Gap y mis zapatos **son de** H&M.

*My dress is from Gap and my shoes are from H&M.*

**Pro Tip:** Adjectives **must match** gender and number.

## Use #4: Telling Time & Dates

3rd person singular and plural conjugations:

**Es la** → Only for 1:00

**Es la** una y veinte.

*It's one twenty.*

**Son las** → 2:00 - 12:00

**Son las** tres y cuarto.

*It's a quarter past three.*

**Ser** also indicates the time or date of an action:

La cita **es** a las dos.

*The appointment is at two.*

## Ser + (el) + [date]

Tu cumpleaños **fue el** veinte de enero.

*Your birthday was on January twentieth.*



## Estar: Distinctive Use

### Use #1: Express Ongoing Actions

- Actions **in progress** at the moment of speaking.
  - Happening now.
  - Current when speaking.

**Pro Tip:** Estar has fewer unique applications. Quick rule: If it's not estar, it's ser.

¿Qué **estamos** haciendo?

**Estamos** aprendiendo la diferencia entre 'ser' y 'estar'.

Is sentence #4 correct?

Yo **soy** leyendo.

*I'm reading.*

**INCORRECT**

Yo **estoy** leyendo.

*I'm reading.*

**CORRECT**



## Overlapping Uses:

- Location
- Occupation
- Descriptions

### Use #1: Location

Is sentence #5 correct?

Yo **soy** en la escuela.

*I'm at school.*

**INCORRECT**

Yo **estoy** en la escuela.

*I'm at school.*

**CORRECT**

- **Estar** only expresses the **location** of places, people, and things.

Yo **estoy** en la escuela.

*I'm at school.*

Mi casa **está** cerca del centro.

*My house is near downtown.*

Las llaves **estaban** en la mesa.

*The keys were on the table.*

Check how we can emphasize different information by using one verb or the other:

- Location → Yo **estoy** en la escuela.
- Identifying → Aquí **es** mi casa.



## Is sentence #6 correct?

La fiesta **está** en mi casa. **INCORRECT**  
*The party is at my house.*

With location:

→ **Estar** indicates most locations.

→ **Ser** conveys an event's location (weddings, parties, concerts, exams, etc).

La fiesta **es** en mi casa. **CORRECT**  
*The party is at my house.*

[event-related noun] + **ser**

La fiesta **es** en mi casa.  
*The party is at my house.*

Su boda **fue** en la playa.  
*Her wedding was at the beach.*

Las citas **serán** en el segundo piso.  
*The appointments will be on the second floor.*

## Is sentence #7 correct?

La torre Eiffel **es** en París. **INCORRECT**  
*The Eiffel Tower is in Paris.*

Complete this sentence

El concierto \_\_\_\_\_ en el teatro que \_\_\_\_\_ al lado del parque.

- **Estar** indicates the location of cities and monuments. These places aren't permanent. They're representative.



La torre Eiffel **está** en París.  
*The Eiffel Tower is in Paris.*

**CORRECT**

El concierto **es** en el teatro que **está** al lado del parque.  
*The concert is in the theater that is next to the park.*

## Use #2: Profession & Occupation

- **Ser** refers to long-term careers or jobs.

Luisa **es** enfermera en este hospital.  
*Luisa is a nurse in this hospital.*

Yo **soy** maestra de español.  
*I'm a Spanish teacher.*

- **Estar** refers to temporary occupations. To form this meaning use **estar + de + [noun]**.

**Estoy de mesera.**  
*I'm working as a waitress.*

Luisa **está de enfermera** en este hospital.  
*Luisa is working as a nurse in this hospital.*



## Use #3: Descriptions & Conditions

- **Ser** describes:
  - **Long-term qualities** related to identity, such as nationality.
  - **Inherent traits** related to someone's nature. For example, physical traits, personality, material, etc.

Mis amigos **son** muy entretenidos.

*My friends are very entertaining.*

La novia de Juan **es** muy bonita.

*Juan's girlfriend is very pretty.*

Este celular **es** muy bueno.

*This phone is very good.*

**Is sentence #8 correct?**

Laura **es** muy amable.

**CORRECT**

*Laura is very nice.*

**Is sentence #9 correct?**

Sus hermanos **son** dormidos.

**INCORRECT**

*Her brothers are asleep.*

Sus hermanos **están** dormidos.

**CORRECT**

*Her brothers are asleep.*





- 'Estar' describes **changeable** conditions or states.
  - Emotions, postures, physical conditions, temporary traits.

Laura **está** cansada de **estar** sentada todo el día.  
*Laura is tired of sitting all day.*

Mis amigos **están** muy entretenidos.\*  
*My friends are very entertained.*

- In daily life conversations, use **estar** + [adjective] of physical appearance to **highlight** temporary traits (how someone currently looks)

La novia de Juan **está** muy **bonita**.  
*Juan's girlfriend looks very pretty.*

Soy morena, pero **estoy** un poco **pálida** porque vi un fantasma.  
*I'm dark-skinned, but I'm a bit pale because I saw a ghost.*

Hoy tu hermana **estuvo** muy **divertida**.  
*Today your sister was very funny.*

La reunión **estuvo interesante**.  
*The reunion was interesting.*

**Is sentence #10 correct?**

El árbol **es** muerto. **INCORRECT**  
*The tree is dead.*

El árbol **está** muerto. **CORRECT**  
*The tree is dead.*

**Pro Tip:** 'Muerto' and 'vivo' are not inherent traits. These are perceived as changeable states in Spanish.



## Adjectives that Change in Meaning

Entretenido	
<b>Ser</b> entretenido <i>To be entertaining</i>	Mis amigos <b>son</b> <u>entretenidos</u> . <i>My friends are entertaining.</i>
<b>Estar</b> entretenido <i>To be entertained</i>	Mis amigos <b>están</b> <u>entretenidos</u> . <i>My friends are entertained.</i>

  

Aburrido	
<b>Ser</b> aburrido <i>To be boring</i>	No me gusta hablar con Sonia porque <b>es</b> muy <u>aburrida</u> . <i>I don't like speaking with Sonia because she's very boring.</i>
<b>Estar</b> aburrido <i>To be bored</i>	Sonia <b>está</b> <u>aburrida</u> . La voy a invitar al cine. <i>Sonia is bored. I'm going to invite her to the movies.</i>

  

Rico	
<b>Ser</b> rico <i>To be rich</i>	La familia de Sonia <b>es</b> <u>rica</u> . Tienen muchos negocios y propiedades. <i>Sonia's family is rich. They have many businesses and properties.</i>
<b>Estar</b> rico <i>To be tasty</i>	¡Qué <u>rico</u> <b>está</b> el pastel! ¿Tú lo hiciste? <i>The cake is delicious! Did you make it?</i>



## Cerrado

<b>Ser cerrado</b> <i>To be close-minded</i>	A Diego no le gusta tratar cosas nuevas, <b>es</b> muy <u>cerrado</u> . <i>Diego doesn't like trying new things, he's very close-minded.</i>
<b>Estar cerrado</b> <i>To be closed</i>	Ahorita, la tienda ya <b>está</b> <u>cerrada</u> . Abren hasta mañana. <i>Right now, the store is already closed. They open tomorrow.</i>

## Listo

<b>Ser listo</b> <i>To be clever</i>	¿Ya resolviste el problema? ¡Qué <u>lista</u> <b>eres</b> ! <i>Did you already solve the problem? You're so clever!</i>
<b>Estar listo</b> <i>To be ready</i>	Sus lentes <b>están</b> <u>listos</u> , puede pasar por ellos cuando quiera. <i>Your glasses are ready. You can pick them whenever you want.</i>



## Golden Rule to identify **Ser** or **Estar**

Because of their nature, *ser* and *estar* respond to **distinctive** questions. These questions can help you identify which verb you need.

### Questions for **Ser**

Questions	Example
<b>Who</b> are you? <i>Name, identify people</i>	<b>Soy</b> Daniela, ¿y tú?
<b>What</b> are you? <i>Profession or nationality. Identify objects.</i>	<b>Soy</b> mexicana y <b>soy</b> maestra de español.
<b>What</b> are you like? <i>Physical appearance, personality</i>	<b>Soy</b> bajita, un poco tímida y morena.
<b>Where</b> are you from? <i>Origin</i>	<b>Soy</b> de Guadalajara. <b>Es</b> una ciudad en México.
<b>What</b> time is it? <i>Time</i>	¿Tal vez <b>son</b> las once?
<b>When and where</b> is...? <i>Event &amp; Date</i>	La fiesta <b>es</b> en mi casa y <b>será</b> este viernes.

# Ser vs Estar Lesson Notes



These questions can also be used to refer to objects, such as my watch. But make sure you adjust the conjugation accordingly. Check this example:

Questions	Example
<b>What</b> is it?	Este <b>es</b> mi reloj.
<b>What</b> is it like?	<b>Es</b> azul, pequeño y a mí me parece que <b>es</b> muy bonito.
<b>Where</b> is it from?	No sé exactamente de dónde <b>es</b> , pero <b>es</b> Apple.
<b>What</b> time is it...?	<b>Eran</b> las diez de la mañana cuando lo compré.
<b>When</b> and <b>where</b> ...?	<b>Fue</b> creado en México.

**Pro Tip:** Ser conveys inherent qualities or information related to someone's or something's nature.

## Questions for Estar

**Estar** responds to the following 3 questions:

Questions	Example
<b>Where</b> are you? <i>Location</i>	<b>Estoy</b> en mi oficina, ¿y tú <b>estás</b> en tu casa?
<b>How</b> are you? <i>States/Condition/Temporary traits</i>	<b>Estoy</b> bien, gracias, ¿y tú cómo <b>estás</b> ?
<b>What</b> are you doing? <i>Actions in progress/Temporary Occupation</i>	<b>Estoy</b> explicando la diferencia entre ser y estar.

# Ser vs Estar Lesson Notes



Here is an example where I'm using these questions to talk about my watch.

Questions	Example
Where is it?	<i>Está</i> en mi mano.
How is it?	<i>Está</i> apagado y, de hecho, <i>está</i> un poco sucio.
What is it doing?	No <i>está</i> haciendo nada, bueno, <i>está</i> de modelo para este video.

The question “**how** is it?” can also be answered with the advanced use of *estar* to highlight how someone currently looks.

**How** is Laura?

Laura *está* muy *flaca* porque *está* a dieta.

*Laura is very thin because she's on a diet.*



## Challenge

Complete these sentences by choosing the correct verb (**ser** or **estar**) and conjugate it:

1. Ella \_\_\_\_ la maestra de inglés.
2. El gato \_\_\_\_ en el patio.
3. ¿Por qué \_\_\_\_ tan cansado? (tú)
4. La reunión \_\_\_\_ mi oficina.
5. Yo \_\_\_\_ aburrida porque esta clase siempre \_\_\_\_ muy aburrida.
6. Esa \_\_\_\_ mi escuela. Antes, \_\_\_\_ (imperfect) cerca del parque.
7. Esta semana, las manzanas \_\_\_\_ muy caras.
8. Los papás de Sonia \_\_\_\_ muy ricos.
9. ¡Qué ricas \_\_\_\_ las papas!
10. Mi hermana no \_\_\_\_ aquí.

## Resources

- [YouTube Video: Ser vs Estar: Rules, Examples & My Method for 100% Accuracy](#)
- [Guide: Ser vs Estar Simplified: Key Differences, Tips, Uses & Quiz](#)