

¿Ser o Estar? Así es el dilema. Ser or Estar? That is the Question.

In Spanish there are two verbs that mean **to be**. Those verbs are **ser** and **estar**. We have studied the present tense of both, so you should be familiar with them. Since there are two (2) **to be** verbs, does it matter which one you use? ¡Claro qué sí! Of course it does! In most cases, they cannot be interchanged. In cases where either could be used, the meaning is different depending on which verb you choose.

Uses of ser	Uses of estar
To tell time / Give complete date ¿Qué hora es ? Son las dos. Es el primero de agosto.	With the present progressive tense Estoy estudiando. Está lloviendo. Ellos están saliendo.
Origin ¿ <u>De dónde</u> eres ? Soy de Arkansas.	Location ¿ <u>Dónde</u> está Ana? Está en clase.
Impersonal Expressions Es posible. Es imposible. Es necesario. Es evidente.	
Profession - Srta. Gómez es profesora. Yo soy médico. Uds. son alumnos.	
Possession El lápiz es de Juan.	
<i>In general, ser tells who the subject is or what it is in its essence</i> ¿Cómo es? [How is he?] has the meaning "What is he like?" Young - old; tall - short; thin - fat; rich - poor;?	<i>In general, estar usually relates where or in what condition or position the subject is.</i> ¿Cómo está? How is he? Has the meaning What is his condition? Fine, sick?
To express traits and characteristics that normally do not change Nationality - Las muchachas son españolas. Religion - Somos católicos. Political Affiliation - Jorge es republicano. Material composition - El bolígrafo es de Oro	

Ser is usually used with the adjectives **joven, viejo, rico and pobre** [young, old, rich and poor.]

[REMEMBER: The verb tener translates as am, is and are in certain expressions.]

Tengo 15 años. I am 15 years old.
Tenemos hambre. We are hungry.
Ana tiene sed. Ana is thirsty.
Tienen frío. They are cold.

[REMEMBER: The verb hacer translates as is in weather expressions.]

Hace frío. It is cold.
Hace calor. It is hot.