

SP09: Ser versus Estar

Student Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Instructor: _____ Class Level: _____ Date: _____

For media links in this activity, visit [the LLC Spanish Tutoring website](#). Find your DLA number to see all the resources to finish your DLA.

Learning Outcomes: You will be able to...

- ✓ Use simple present forms of *ser* and *estar*
- ✓ Distinguish between temporary and permanent states
- ✓ Choose between *ser* and *estar* in sentences

Section 1: Form

ser – to be

yo	soy	nosotros	somos
tú	eres	vosotros	sois
él/ella/usted	es	ellos/ellas/ustedes	son

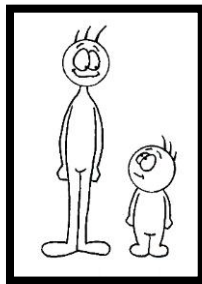
estar – to be

yo	estoy	nosotros	estamos
tú	estás	vosotros	estáis
él/ella/usted	está	ellos/ellas/ustedes	están

ser vs. estar

Both of these verbs mean “to be;” but they are used in two different ways: permanent and temporary. *Ser* refers to permanent states of being, and *estar* refers to temporary states of being. It’s that simple!

PERMANENT STATE



Él **es** alto. Él **es** bajo.
He is tall. He is short.

TEMPORARY STATE



Yo **estoy** enfermo.
I am sick.



What kind of situations are permanent and temporary?

Permanent States

ser

1. The hour, day, and date
2. Place of origin
3. Occupation (job)
4. Nationality
5. Religious or political affiliation
6. The material something is made of
7. Possession
8. Relationship of one person to another
9. Where an event is taking place
10. Physical traits

Temporary States

estar

1. Geographic or physical location
2. Weather
3. State or condition (including health, feelings, and emotions)
4. Progressive tenses (-ando/-iendo)
5. Many idiomatic expressions

Section 2: Practice

For each picture, write the correct form of *ser* or *estar*. Then, write the number of the reason for using *ser* or *estar* (see the top part of this page).



Rodolfo _____ ingeniero. # _____



El carro nuevo _____ de Enrique. # _____



Ellos _____ corriendo. # _____



Ella _____ contenta. # _____



Section 3: Further Practice

For each sentence, write the correct form of *ser* or *estar*. Be prepared to discuss with the tutor why you chose *ser* or *estar*.

1. Tu prima _____ muy alta y simpática.
2. Ulysses y yo _____ de California.
3. Mis amigos _____ contentos.
4. Mi profesora _____ en el aula.
5. El Language Learning Center _____ en el edificio 77-1005.
6. Ellos _____ guatemaltecos.
7. Ella _____ abogada.
8. Translate the sentence: It's five in the afternoon. _____.

Section 4: A Morning Routine

Go to the Section 4 Video on [the LLC Spanish Tutoring website](#). Note that the video doesn't have any sound—you will use it to create your own story below.



Have fun, use your imagination, and **write** 4 sentences about the video. Use a variety of *ser* and *estar*.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____





Section 5: Meanings

It's important to understand the difference between *ser* and *estar* because it can change the meaning enough to confuse the listener!

Example:

Soy contento.

I am happy. (I am a happy person).

Estoy contento.

I am happy. (I am happy right now).

Your turn. Read the following sentence pairs aloud. Explain the difference between the two sentences to your tutor.

1. aburrido

Soy aburrido.

Estoy aburrido.

2. sana

Ella *es* sana.

Ella *está* sana.

3. optimista

Tu *eres* optimista.

Tu *estás* optimista.





Section 6: Practice with a tutor!

GOOD job! Now [make an appointment for Spanish Tutoring on the LLC website](#).

Before your appointment, please [fill out the sign-in sheet](#).

When it is time for your appointment, meet your tutor in the [Virtual LLC](#).

Grading Rubric

Possible Points	 Pass	 Not Yet Pass
Completion	The student completed all of the sections of the DLA.	The student has not yet completed all of the section of the DLA.
Comprehension/ Metacognition	The student can effectively explain the concepts and skills learned in the DLA.	The student cannot yet effectively explain the concepts and skills learned in the DLA.
Course Connections	The student can explain the connections between their coursework and the DLA.	The student cannot yet explain a connection between their course and DLA.

Students must succeed in all criteria to pass this DLA.

Verification of completion: If you successfully complete this DLA with the tutor, you will receive a stamp on your digital passport. An updated copy of your passport will be emailed to you 1-2 business days after your tutoring appointment.

