

To Be or Not To Be?

Spanish has two verbs (infinitives) that are used for the forms of “be” words in English. They are Ser (=to be) and Estar (=to be). Be sure to copy these words into your Apuntes Celestes.

the forms of Ser in bold:

Yo **soy**=I am

Tú **eres**=you are (informal=inf)

Él **es**=he is

Ella **es**=she is

Usted **es**=you are (formal=f)

Nosotros **somos**=we are

Vosotros **sois**=y’all are (informal=inf)

Ellos/ellas **son**=they are

Ustedes **son**=Y’all are (formal=f)

the forms of Estar in bold:

Yo **estoy**=I am

Tú **estás**=you are (informal=inf)

Él **está**=he is

Ella **está**=she is

Usted **está**=you are (formal=f)

Nosotros **estamos**=we are

Vosotros **estáis**=y’all are (informal=inf)

Ellos/ellas **están**=they are

Ustedes **están**=Y’all are (formal=f)

When to use Ser forms? When to use Estar forms?

In general, Spanish speakers follow these two “rules” when using either Ser or Estar. Use Ser when describing someone or something’s qualities that do not change from moment to moment—for example, height, looks, personality qualities, or the color of an object. Use Estar when talking about description that changes from one moment to the next—like how someone is feeling or where someone or something is at (located). Spanish speakers also use Ser to tell the time of day and where someone is from (=de).

By the way, did you know that pronouns are used to take the place of a noun? All of the following words in bold type below are **PRONOUNS**. English and Spanish speakers use pronouns to be clear about whom they speak. Here’s a list in Spanish and English. Copy these words into your Apuntes Celestes.

Yo (=I), tú (=you, informal), él (=he), ella (=she), usted/Ud. (=you formal), nosotros/nosotras (=we), vosotros/vosotras (=y’all informal), ellos (=they masculine), ellas (=they feminine), and ustedes/Uds. (=y’all formal)