**Ser y estar/To be and to be**

**When to use SER**

You use the verb **ser** to describe the unchanging characteristics of a person, place, or thing.

**Origin and Nationality**

* + **Ella es de España.** (She is from Spain.)
	+ **Ella es española.** (She is Spanish.)
* **The Four P’s: Personality, Physical Attributes, Profession, and Possession**
	+ **Él es divertido.** (He is fun.)
	+ **Susana es baja.** (Susana is short.)
	+ **Mi padre es un médico.** (My father is a doctor.)
	+ **El carro azul es mío.** (The blue car is mine.)
* **Date and Time**
	+ **Hoy es el seis de enero.** (Today is January 6th [the 6th of January].)
	+ **Son las nueve de la noche.** (It is 9 p.m.)
* **Relationships**
	+ **Ellos son mis padres.** (They are my parents.)
	+ **Rafael es mi mejor amigo.** (Rafael is my best friend.)

Conjugation of SER:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yo **soy** | Nosotros **somos** |
| Tu **eres** | Vosotros **sois** |
| El, ella, ud. **es** | Ustedes **son** |

**When to use ESTAR**

You use the verb **estar** to describe the changing characteristics of a person, place, or thing

**Location**

* + **Su casa está en la avenida Juárez.** (Her house is on Juarez Avenue.)
	+ **El cine está cerca del centro.** (The cinema is near the center of town.)
* [**Mood**](http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/knowing-whether-to-use-ser-or-estar.html#glossary-mood) **and Physical Condition**
	+ **El profesor está enojado.** (The teacher is angry.)
	+ **Mi madre está emocionada.** (My mother is excited.)
	+ **Los estudiantes están aburridos.** (The students are bored.)
	+ **La señorita Martínez está enferma.** (Miss Martinez is sick.)
* **Result of an Action**
	+ **Los niños están de pie.** (The children are standing.)
	+ **La audiencia está sentada.** (The audience is seated.)

Conjugation of ESTAR:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yo **estoy** | Nosotros **estamos** |
| Tu **estás** | Vosotros **estáis** |
| El, ella, ud. **está** | Ustedes **están** |