

El verbo SER – The Verb TO BE

Introduction:

The indicative mood is used to talk about true actions, events and states as well as facts. It is one of three moods in Spanish grammar, apart from subjunctive and imperative. We use the indicative to express facts in the present, past, future and conditional tenses. Here, we are going to see about the present indicative tense of verb **SER**.

SER in Spanish Grammar:

The English verb **To be** has two translations in Spanish grammar: **SER** & **ESTAR**. In this, **SER** is often used to describe qualities and characteristics of noun.

Conjugation of SER:

The conjugation table below provides an overview of the conjugations of SER in present tense of the indicative mood.

Yo	soy	I am
Nosotros/as	somos	We are

Tú	eres	You are
Vosotros/as	sois	You all are

Usted	es	You are
Ustedes	son	You all are

Él/Ella	es	He/She is
Ellos/Ellas	son	They are

Yo	soy
Tú	eres
Él/Ella/Usted	es

Nosotros/as	somos
Vosotros/as	sois
Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes	son

Few examples using SER:

Félix y Raúl **son** altos.

Felix and Raul **are** tall.

Yo **soy** alemana.

I **am** german.

Antón **es** muy simpático.

Anton **is** very nice.

Susana **es** de Venezuela.

Susana **is** from Venezuela.

[De = of/from]

Ese anillo **es** de oro.

That ring **is** of gold.

Clara y Sara **son** mis hermanas.

Clara and Sara **are** my sisters.

Elisa **es** mi esposa.

Elisa **is** my spouse.

El partido **es** el miércoles.

The match **is** on Wednesday.

Hoy **es** 1 de abril.

Today **is** 1st of April.

Es primavera.

It is spring (season).

Aquí, ya **es** de noche.

Here, **it's** already night.

¿**Eres** estudiante? Sí, **soy** estudiante.

Are you student? Yes, I **am** student.

¿**Son** ustedes ingenieros? Sí, **somos** ingenieros.

Are you'll engineers? Yes, we **are** engineers.

¿**Es** Mario secretario? No, él no **es** secretario.

Is Mario secretary? No, he **is** not secretary.

¿**Es** María enfermera? Sí, ella **es**.

Is María nurse? Yes, she **is**.

¿**Son** Juan y Pedro taxistas? Sí, ellos **son**.

Are John and Peter taxi drivers? Yes, they **are**.

¿Qué **es** el señor Bose?

Él **es** un líder.

Esa carta **es** de María.

That letter **is** from Maria.

Estos **son** mis amigos.

These **are** my friends.

El partido de fútbol **es** en Barcelona.

The football match **is** in Barcelona.

¿Qué hora **es**? **Son** las diez.

What time **is** it? **It's** ten o'clock.

Hoy **es** domingo.

Today **is** sunday.

El ratón **es** matado por el gato.

The mouse **is** killed by the cat.

Juan **es** ingeniero.

John **is** engineer.

[¿Qué = What?]

¿Qué **es** Ravi varma?

Él **es** un pintor.

Los adjetivos – The adjectives

Adjectives are words that denote the attributes or qualities of a noun. Unlike English in Spanish, adjectives always agree in GENDER (Masculine or Feminine) and NUMBER (Singular or Plural) with the noun they accompany. In addition, unlike English, as a general rule, adjectives in Spanish are placed after the noun and only in very special cases do they precede it.

The ending of adjectives in Spanish:

The ending of an adjective indicates GENDER and NUMBER with relation to the noun it accompanies. For example,

José es un dueño **amable** de Félix.

Jose is a **friendly** owner of Felix.

Félix es un gato **blanco**.

Felix is a **white** cat.

Yo tengo dos libros **pequeños**.

I have two **small** books.

Las ramitas son **largas**.

The sticks are **long**.

The position of the adjective:

The position of the adjective in Spanish varies depending on the type of adjective and the meaning that we want to give to the sentence. As a general rule, adjectives must always be placed after the noun that contributes an attribute and only in exceptional situations, and for very specific communicative purposes, can it precede it.

In some cases, placing the adjective preceding the noun leads to a change in the meaning of the adjective.

Adjective	Meaning if placed before noun	Examples
Antiguo	Previous	Mi antigua casa
		My old house
Cierto	Enough Quite a lot of	Una cierta edad
		A certain age
Curioso	Interesting Strange	Una curiosa historia
		A curious story
Grande	Quality of human	Un gran hombre
		A great man
Pobre	One that inspires sorrow	El pobre hombre
		The poor man
Próximo	Next Immediately after	La próxima vez
		Next time
Puro	Simple	Una pura formalidad
		A pure formality

Adjective	Meaning if placed after noun	Examples
Antiguo	Old Antique	Una casa antigua
		An old house
Cierto	Surety	Una cosa cierta
		A certain thing
Curioso	One who is curious	Un niño curioso
		A curious kid
Grande	Something of considerable size	Un hombre grande
		A big man
Pobre	Penniless	Un hombre pobre
		A poor man
Próximo	Close by time or space	Una casa próxima
		A nearby house
Puro	Unpolluted	El aire puro
		Pure air

In certain situations the adjective precedes the noun. This is done to emphasize that the quality noted is a subjective perception of the speaker. In addition, the statement adopts a poetic or literary tone.

La **bonita** flor.

The **beautiful** flower.

Él es un **grán** líder.

He is a **great** leader.

LOS ADJETIVOS OPUESTOS	
Alto/a (tall) x Bajo/a (short)	Gordo/a (fat) x Delgado/a (thin)
Negro/a (black) x Blanco/a (white)	Tonto/a (fool) x Inteligente
Bonito/a (beauty) x Feo/a (ugly)	Áspero/a (rough) x Suave (soft)
Pequeño/a (small) x Grande (big)	Mayor/a (major) x Menor (minor)
Bueno/a (good) x Malo/a (bad)	Frío/a (cold) x Caliente (hot)
Moderno/a (modern) x Antiguo/a	Alegre (bliss) x Triste (sad)
Nuevo/a (new) x Viejo/a (old)	Feliz (happy) x Infeliz (unhappy)
Aburrido/a (boring) x Interesante	Mejor (best) x Peor (poor)
Aburrido/a (boring) x Divertido/a (fun)	Difícil (difficult) x Fácil (easy)
Caro/a (costly) x Barato/a (cheap)	Superior x Inferior
Largo/a (length) x Ancho/a (width)	Cortés (gently) x Descortés (rude)
Enérgico/a (brisk) x Perezoso/a (lazy)	Agradable x Desagradable
Rico (rich) x pobre (poor)	(Pleasant) (unpleasant)

¿Cómo es la comida en la India?

[¿Cómo? = How?]

La comida es Buena en la India.

¿Cómo es el vino español?

El vino español es excelente.

¿Cómo son tus amigos?

Mis amigos son simpáticos.

¿Cómo son los taxis en tu país?

Los taxis de mi país son muy rápidos.

¿Cómo son los libros?

Los libros son muy interesantes.

¿Cómo es Barcelona?

Barcelona es bonita.

¿Cómo es la película 'Titanic'?

Es muy romántica.

¿Cómo es la gente de España?

Es generosa y amable.

Los adjetivos demostrativos

The demonstratives [adverbs & adjectives] are used to identify a noun (person, animal, place or thing) by indicating the distance it maintains with respect to the speaker. They allow us to indicate three degrees of distance that are indicated by: Este | Esta, Ese | Esa and Aquel | Aquella. They obey Noun's Gender/Number agreement. With the demonstrative adjectives, there is also demonstrative adverbs that establish three degrees of distance that are indicated by: Aquí | Acá, Ahí and Allí | Allá.

Unlike the previous one, these adverbs do not obey Noun's Gender/Number agreement.

Demonstrative adjectives				
Masculine	Singular	Este (this)	Ese (that)	Aquel (that one)
	Plural	Estos (these)	Esos (those)	Aquellos (those ones)
Feminine	Singular	Esta (this)	Esa (that)	Aquella (that one)
	Plural	Estas (these)	Esas (those)	Aquellas (those ones)
Neutral gender		Esto (this)	Eso (that)	Aquello (those ones)

Demonstrative adverbs	Aquí/Acá (here)	Ahí (there)	Allí/Allá (there very far)
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Este edificio es alto.

This building is tall.

Aquellos libros son interesante.

Those books are interesting.

Esta oficina es cómoda.

This office is comfortable.

Esa casa es moderna y agradable

That house is modern and pleasant.

¿Qué es **eso**? Es una iglesia.

What is **that**? It is a church.

¿Dónde está **ese** coche amarillo? **Ese** coche está **aquí/acá**.

Where is **that** yellow car? **That** car is **here**.

¿Dónde están **esos** mesas? Las están **allá**.

Where are **those** tables? They are **over there**.

Los adjetivos posesivos

The possessives in Spanish grammar are of two kinds – possessive adjectives & possessive pronouns. They indicate the possession or belonging of noun. They agree in gender and number with the noun.

Possessive adjectives – are used to talk about the thing possessed. There are of two types – those that are placed before the noun and those that are placed after the noun. Those that come after the noun, give more emphasis to the sentence than those that are placed before the noun. Below are the examples for placing before the noun

My	Mi(s)
Your	Tu(s)
His/Her/Your (formal)	Su(s)
Our	Nuestro(s) Nuestra(s)
Your	Vuestro(s) Vuestra(s)
Their/Your (formal)	Su(s)

Examples of before the noun:

My shirt – Mi camisa	My shirts – Mis camisas
Your car – Tu coche	Your cars – Tus coches
Your book – Su libro	Your books – Sus libros
His/her garden – Su jardín	His/her gardens – Sus jardines
Our friend – Nuestro o amigo o	Our friends – Nuestros os amigos os
Our painting – Nuestra a pintura a	Our paintings – Nuestras as pinturas as
Your pen – Vuestro o bolígrafo o	Your pens – Vuestros os bolígrafos os
Your homework – Vuestra a tarea a	Your homeworks – Vuestras as tareas as
Their laptop – Su portátil	Their laptops – Sus portátiles