



Conversación intermedia I

Week 1 & 2 Grammar Guide: Describing People, Places, Things

SER

Conjugation of SER

	Singular	Plural
1st Person	Soy	Somos
2nd Person (Informal)	Eres	
2nd Person (Formal) & 3rd Person	Es	Son

Uses of SER

SER is used to talk about WHAT something is in a permanent state, or to describe characteristics that are an essential part of the thing we're talking about. Specifically, SER is used for these situations:

1. To define the essential, permanent qualities of a person, place, or thing.

María es amable.	Maria is friendly or kind.
Los payasos son graciosos.	The clowns are funny.
Los estudiantes son diligentes.	The students are diligent.
Mi abuelo es viejo.	My grandfather is old.
El camino es ancho.	The road is wide.
La ciudad es antigua.	The city is ancient.
La pelota es redonda.	The ball is round.
Los sombreros son negros.	The hats are black.

2. To state the purpose of something

La llave es para la puerta.	The key is for the door.
Las tortillas son para comer.	The tortillas are for eating.

3. To tell time, such as hours, days, months, dates

Es la una en la tarde.	It's (at) one o'clock in the afternoon.
Son las diez en la mañana.	It's (at) ten o'clock in the morning.
Es el veinte de marzo.	It's (on) March twentieth.
Es el jueves.	It's (on) Thursday.
Es en junio.	It's in June.

4. To state place of origin and nationality

La silla es de México	The chair is from Mexico
Ana es de Nueva York.	Ann is from New York.
Soy de un pueblecito.	I'm from a small town.
Jorge es de Columbia.	George is from Columbia.
Sara es mexicana.	Sarah is Mexican.

5. To state a person's occupation, religious or political affiliation

Soy maestro(a).	I'm a teacher.
Ella es enferma.	She is a nurse.
Somos estudiantes.	We are students.
El papa es católico.	The Pope is Catholic.

6. To describe the material composition of something

El cinturón es de cuero.
La silla es de madera.

The belt is leather.
The chair is wood.

7. To identify the possession or ownership of something

La guitarra es mía.
El libro es tuyo (informal).
La revista es de ella.
Las entradas son nuestras.

The guitar is mine.
The book is yours.
The magazine is hers.
The tickets are ours.

8. To express the relationship of one person to another

Somos primos(as).
Juan es mi padre.
María y Andrea son vecinas.
Ana es la hermana de Julia.
Ellos son compañeros.

We are cousins.
Juan is my father.
Maria and Andrea are neighbors.
Ann is Julie's sister.
They are buddies or mates.

9. To state where an event is taking place

La fiesta es en mi casa.
El concierto es en el estadio.

The party is at my house.
The concert is at the stadium.

ESTAR

Conjugation of ESTAR

	Singular	Plural
1st Person	Estoy	Estamos
2nd Person (Informal)	Estás	
2nd Person (Formal) / 3rd Person	Está	Están

Uses of ESTAR

ESTAR is used to talk about HOW something is, so we use it for conditions, locations, emotions, and actions - all temporary states. More specifically, ESTAR is used for these situations:

1. Geographic or physical location

Tucson está en Arizona.	Tucson is in Arizona.
La farmacia está en la esquina.	The pharmacy is on the corner.
Estamos en el restaurante.	We are at the restaurant.
La ciudad está a cuatro mil pies de altura.	The city is at four thousand feet in altitude.

2. Emotional state or temporary condition

María está feliz.	Mary is happy.
Estoy cansado.	I'm tired.
Las niñas están tristes.	The girls are sad.
El piso está limpio.	The floor is clean.
Estamos ocupados.	We're busy.

3. The weather (*With exceptions for climate and temperature*)

Está...	It's...
nevando, lloviendo	snowing, raining
soleado, nublado	sunny, cloudy
mojado, seco	wet, dry
<i>El clima de Arizona es caliente y seco.</i>	<i>The Arizona climate is hot and dry.</i>
<i>La temperatura es de veinte grados.</i>	<i>The temperature is twenty degrees.</i>

4. Some conditions that are mostly permanent, but for some reason are considered temporary.

Juan está casado a María.	Juan is married to Maria.
Estoy jubilado(a).	I'm retired.
Jorge está muerto.	George is dead.

5. With gerunds to form the present progressive. (More about this in Week 4)

Estoy tratando aprender español.	I'm trying to learn Spanish.
Ana está cocinando.	Ana is cooking.

HAY

HAY means “there is” or “there are,” and it is a very important word to enumerate places and things. It also is used to describe the weather.

1. Enumerating things and conditions

Hay solo una mesa disponible.	There is only one table available.
Hay ocho parques en la ciudad.	There are eight parks in the city.
Hay muchas botanas para elegir.	There are many snacks to choose (from).
Hay mucho ruido.	It’s very noisy. (There is much noise.)

2. Describing the weather

Hay viento.	It’s windy. (There is wind.)
Hay niebla.	It’s foggy. (There is fog.)
Hay nubes.	It’s cloudy. (There are clouds.)
Hay truenos, relámpagos.	There is thunder, lightning.
Hay tormentas.	There are storms.

TENER

Conjugation of Tener

	Singular	Plural
1st Person	Tengo	Tenemos
2nd Person (Informal)	Tienes	
2nd Person (Formal) / 3rd Person	Tiene	Tienen

Uses of TENER

TENER is used in place of SER and ESTAR in some situations. “Tengo” means “I have,” but it also can be used to describe age and some other conditions.

1. Age

Tengo cuarenta años.	I’m forty years old.
La ciudad tiene cuatrocientos años	The city is four hundred years old.

1. Some emotions and conditions

Tengo hambre, sed.	I am hungry, thirsty.
Ana tiene miedo.	Ana is scared.
¡Tienes razón!	You’re right!
Juan tiene éxito.	Juan is successful.
Ellos tienen celos del niño.	They are jealous of the boy.
Tenemos frío, calor.	We are cold, hot.
Tengo vergüenza (por)	I’m embarrassed (by)

2. As an alternative to “aquí está”

Aquí tiene(s)	Here you are / Here you go.
Aquí tienes tu libro.	Here is your book.

Useful Words to use with SER and ESTAR

This, That, These, Those

Es...

este libro, esta casa
esto, esta

ese libro, esa casa
eso, esa

Son...

estos libros, estas casas
estos, estas

esos libros, esas casas
esos, esas

It is...

this book, this house
this one (m), this one (f)

that book, that house
that one (m), that one (f)

They are...

these books, these houses
these (m), these (f)

those books, those houses
those (m), those (f)

Possessive Pronouns

Es mío, son míos

Es tuyo, son tuyos

Es de usted, es de ustedes

Son de usted, son de ustedes

Es de él, ella

Son de él, ella

It is mine, they are mine

It is yours, they are yours (informal)

It is yours (formal)

They are yours (formal)

It is his, hers

They are his, hers

Es mi libro. Son mis libros.

Es tu libro. Son tus libros.

Es su libro. Son sus libros.

Es su libro. Son sus libros.

Es nuestro libro. Es nuestra casa.

Son nuestros libros. Son nuestras casas.

It is my book. They are my books.

It is your book. They are your books. (informal)

It is your book. They are your books. (formal)

It is his or her book. They are his or her books.

It is our book. It is our house.

They are our books, They are our houses.

Locations

Está (están)...

aquí

allí

allá

It is (they are)...

here

there, over there

way over there

Comparisons

Hay...

más, menos

más que suficiente

más de ____ (cantidad)

mucho

demasiado, demasiados

muy poco

There is, there are...

more, less

more than enough

more than ____ (quantity)

much, a lot of

too much, too many

too little

SER v. ESTAR: Some words that change meaning

Listo(a)	El niño es muy <u>listo</u> . ¿Estás <u>lista</u> ?	The boy is very <u>smart</u> or <u>sharp</u> . Are you <u>ready</u> ?
Aburrido(a)	Mi tío es <u>aburrido</u> . Estoy <u>aburrido</u> .	My uncle is <u>boring</u> . I'm <u>bored</u> .
Orgullosa(a)	El político es muy <u>orgullosa</u> . Mi madre está <u>orgullosa</u> de me.	The politician is very <u>arrogant</u> . My mother is <u>proud</u> of me.
Enfermo(a)	El niño es <u>enfermo</u> . El niño está <u>enfermo</u> .	The boy is <u>sickly</u> or an <u>invalid</u> . The boy is <u>sick</u> .
Interesado(a)	Juan es <u>interesado</u> y materialismo. Juan está <u>interesado</u> en tu proyecto.	Juan is <u>selfish</u> and materialistic. Juan is <u>interested</u> in your project.
Malo(a)	Esperar demasiado es <u>malo</u> . Mi carro está <u>malo</u> .	To wait too long is a <u>bad thing</u> . My car is in <u>bad shape</u> .
Seguro(a)	Somos <u>seguros</u> aquí. Estoy <u>seguro</u> de eso.	We are <u>safe</u> or <u>secure</u> here. I am <u>sure</u> or <u>certain</u> of that.