

SER + ESTAR

SER O ESTAR, ESA
ES LA CUESTIÓN.



DOCTOR CLIF

USE **SER** FOR DOCTOR:

D = DESCRIPTION

O = ORIGIN

C = CHARACTER

T = TIME

O = OCCUPATION

R = RELATIONSHIP

USE **ESTAR** FOR CLIF:

C = CONDITION

L = LOCATION

I = -ING VERBS (PROGRESSIVE TENSES)

F = FEELINGS



With reference DOCTOR CLIF, translate the following into Spanish:

1. She is tall, dark, and slim and she is from Switzerland.

2. Your coat is nice.

3. He is in bed with the flu.

4. They were already drunk when you arrived.

5. The accused said that he was innocent.

6. It has been a difficult year for everyone.

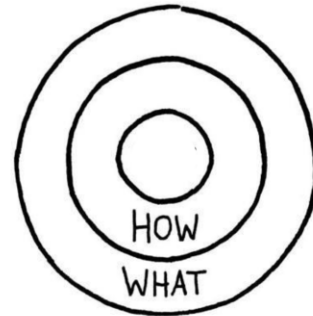
7. He has always been fat, but now he is fatter than ever!

8. Who is she and why is she here?

9. Tomorrow will be my birthday.

THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SER AND ESTAR

- SER = WHATNESS
- ESTAR = HOWNESS



SER = WHATNESS / WHONESS

- Any question asking “WHAT ...?” or any statement answering the questions “WHAT...?” always takes SER.
- Any question asking “WHO ...?” or any statement answering the questions “WHO...?” always takes SER.

ESTAR = HOWNESS / WHERENESS

- Any question asking, “HOW is someone ...?” or any statement answering the questions “HOW is someone...?” always takes ESTAR.
- Any question or statement referring to position – WHERE someone or something is (physically situated) – whether the position be temporary or permanent, must always use ESTAR.

ESTAR (from the Latin *stare* [to stand]) refers to the state of being of a person or things at a particular time. It does not serve to emphasise or define identity, nor does it refer to any inherent characteristic.

With reference to the concepts presented above, explain the difference between the following:

1. ser viejo / estar viejo

2. ser soltero / estar soltero

3. ser cariñoso / estar cariñoso

4. ser guapo/ estar guapo

5. ¿Cómo es tu padre? / ¿Cómo está tu padre?

Translate into Spanish:

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

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

3. Luis is healthy (*a healthy person in general*).

4. Luis is healthy (*he had been sick + now he looks well*).

5. We are optimists.

6. We are optimistic (*at the moment*).

7. My grandfather is old.

8. My grandfather looks old today.

VS



soy bueno
(I'm a good person)



estoy bueno
(I'm sexy)

MEANING CHANGES WITH SER AND ESTAR

There are some words that can be used with both SER and ESTAR but take on different meanings depending on the verb. Below you will find a chart with both forms and their meanings in English.

SAME ADJECTIVE, DIFFERENT MEANING

SER		ESTAR	
ser aburrido	<i>to be boring</i>	estar aburrido	<i>to be bored</i>
ser bueno	<i>to be good</i>	estar bueno	<i>to be tasty</i>
			<i>to be attractive</i>
ser cansado	<i>to be tiring</i>	estar cansado	<i>to be tired</i>
ser grave	<i>to be serious</i>	estar grave	<i>to be seriously ill</i>
ser listo	<i>to be clever</i>	estar listo	<i>to be ready</i>
ser malo	<i>to be bad</i>	estar malo	<i>to be ill</i>
ser orgulloso	<i>to be vain</i>	estar orgulloso	<i>to be proud</i>
ser moreno	<i>to be dark (skinned)</i>	estar moreno	<i>to be tanned</i>
ser pálido	<i>to be pale (skinned)</i>	estar pálido	<i>to be pale</i>
ser pesado	<i>to be heavy</i>	estar pesado	<i>to be tiresome</i>
ser rico	<i>to be rich</i>	estar rico	<i>to be tasty</i>
ser seguro	<i>to be safe</i>	estar seguro	<i>to be certain</i>
ser verde	<i>to be green</i>	estar verde	<i>to be unripe</i>
ser viejo	<i>to be old</i>	estar viejo	<i>to look old</i>
ser vivo	<i>to be sharp</i>	estar vivo	<i>to be alive</i>

EXPRESSIONS WITH ESTAR

estar + gerund (-ando/-iendo)	to be doing something (present progressive)
estar claro	to be clear
estar como el pez en el agua	to be right at home, be in one's element
estar de jefe	to be the acting head
estar de más	to be in excess
estar de sobra	to be in excess
estar en algo	to be involved in something
estar en condiciones	to be in good shape
estar en la luna	to have one's head in the clouds
estar en las nubes	to be daydreaming
estar en que	to believe / be sure that
estar fuera	to be out/away
estar hecho una sopa	to get soaked
estar listo	to be ready
estar para + infinitive	to be about to, be on the verge of
estar para + noun	to be in the mood for

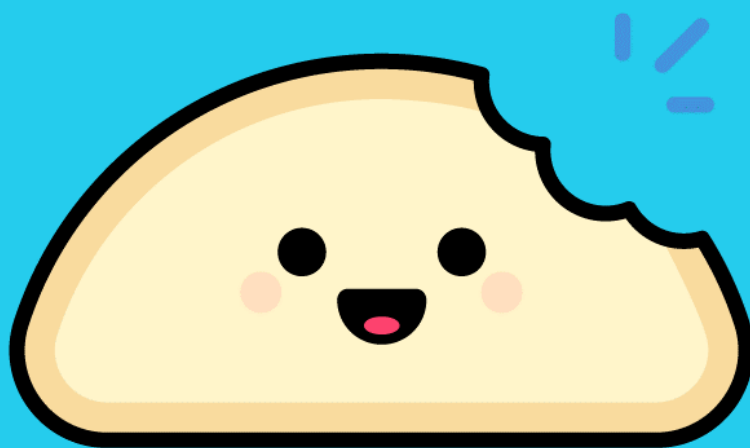
EXPRESSIONS WITH SER

ser + past participle	to be + past participle (passive voice)
ser de	to be from (a city, country) to be made of to belong to
ser el colmo	to be the limit
ser pan comido	to be as easy as pie, to be a piece of cake
ser todo oídos	to be all ears
ser todos ojos	to be all eyes
ser un cero a la izquierda	to be worthless, count for nothing
ser una lata	to be annoying
a no ser que	unless
a no ser por	if it were not for
no ser cosa del otro jueves	to be nothing out of the ordinary
Así es	That is so, that's the way it is
Así es la vida.	Such is life.
¿Cómo es que...?	How is it that...?
Érase que se era (una vez)	Once upon a time
o sea	or rather, in other words
¿Qué ha sido de él?	What has become of him?
¿Qué será de mí?	What will become of me?

Qué será será	What will be, will be
sea... sea	either... or
Sea lo que sea	Be that as it may
el ser	being, life, essence
el ser humano	human being
el ser imaginario	imaginary being
el ser vivo	living creature, organism

ser pan comido

(lit. to be eaten bread)



Translate into Spanish

Traducir al español

Jordi's sons think he is the ideal candidate to be the president of his region. Jordi is firm but fair in his decisions. He and his family are from Tarragona, and his ancestors are from different parts of Catalonia. He is very honest and in debates he is in his element because he can be brutally frank. That is why he is not popular in some places. It is clear that his two sons are not like their father. One is a university student, and the other is unemployed. They are both hypocritical – they do not get on well with their father, but they want him to win. They are incredibly happy because they believe their father's victory will be as easy as pie and that as a result, they will be able to get jobs through family connections. For well-educated people, they are naïve. It is important that they understand the reality. In other words, they must be prepared for defeat. What will be, will be.

VOCABULARY

ancestor – ancestro
honrado - honest
brutally - brutalmente
campaign - la campaña
defeat - la derrota

frank - franco/a
hypocritical - hipócrita
inauguration - la inauguración
mandate - el mandato
educated - educado

naïve - ingenuo/a
reality - la realidad
that's why - por eso
defeat – la derrota

SER + ESTAR CONJUGATIONS

	SER	ESTAR		SER	ESTAR
Present	Soy Eres Es Somos Sois Son	Estoy Estás Está Estamos Estáis Están	Perfect	He sido Has sido Ha sido Hemos sido Habéis sido Han sido	He estado Has estado Ha estado Hemos estado Habéis estado Han estado
Preterite	Fui Fuiste Fue Fuimos Fuisteis Fueron	Estuve Estuviste Estuvo Estuvimos Estuvisteis Estuvieron	Pluperfect	Había sido Habías sido Había sido Habíamos sido Habíais sido Habían sido	Había estado Habías estado Había estado Habíamos estado Habíais estado Habían estado
Imperfect	Era Eras Era Éramos Eráis Eran	Estaba Estabas Estaba Estábamos Estabais Estaban	Conditional	Sería Serías Sería Seríamos Seríais Serían	Estaría Estarías Estaría Estaríamos Estaríais Estarían
Future	Seré Serás Será Seremos Seréis Serán	Estaré Estarás Estará Estaremos Estaréis Estarán	Present subjunctive	Sea Seas Sea Seamos Seáis Sean	Esté Estés Esté Estemos Estéis Estén
Imperative	<i>Sé No seas Sed No seáis</i>	<i>Está No estés Estad No estéis</i>	Imperfect subjunctive	Fuera / Fuese Fueras Fuera Fuéramos Fuerais Fueran	Estuviera / Estuviese Estuvieras Estuviera Estuviéramos Estuvierais Estuvieran