19 Hola, ¿qué tal? diecinueve



Present tense of ser S Tutorial



Subject pronouns

In order to use verbs, you will need to learn about subject pronouns. A subject pronoun replaces the name or title of a person and acts as the subject of a verb.

Subject pronouns					
SINGULAR		PLU	PLURAL		
уо	1	nosotros	<i>we</i> (masculine)		
		nosotras	<i>we</i> (feminine)		
tú	<i>you</i> (familiar)	vosotros	<i>you</i> (masc., fam.)		
usted (Ud.)	<i>you</i> (formal)	vosotras	<i>you</i> (fem., fam.)		
		ustedes (Uds.)	you		
él	he	ellos	they (masc.)		
ella	she	ellas	they (fem.)		

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In Latin America. ustedes is used as the plural for both tú and usted. In Spain, however, vosotros and vosotras are used as the plural of tú, and ustedes is used only as the plural of usted.

Usted and ustedes are abbreviated as Ud. and Uds., or occasionally as Vd. and Vds.

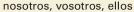
Spanish has two subject pronouns that mean you (singular). Use **tú** when addressing a friend, a family member, or a child you know well. Use **usted** to address a person with whom you have a formal or more distant relationship, such as a superior at work, a professor, or an older person.

Tú eres de Canadá, ¿verdad, David? You are from Canada, right, David?

¿Usted es la profesora de español? Are you the Spanish professor?

The masculine plural forms nosotros, vosotros, and ellos refer to a group of males or to a group of males and females. The feminine plural forms **nosotras**, **vosotras**, and ellas can refer only to groups made up exclusively of females.







nosotros, vosotros, ellos



nosotras, vosotras, ellas

There is no Spanish equivalent of the English subject pronoun it. Generally it is not expressed in Spanish.

Es un problema. It's a problem.

Es una computadora. It's a computer.

20 Lección 1 veinte

The present tense of ser

In Contextos and Fotonovela, you have already used several present-**ANTE TODO** tense forms of **ser** (to be) to identify yourself and others, and to talk about where you and others are from. Ser is an irregular verb; its forms do not follow the regular patterns that most verbs follow. You need to memorize the forms, which appear in this chart.

	The verb ser (<i>to be</i>)		
SINGULAR	yo tú	soy eres	I am you are (fam.)
	Ud./él/ella	es	you are (form.); he/she is
PLURAL	nosotros/as	somos	we are
FORMS	vosotros/as Uds./ellos/ellas	sois son	you are (fam.) you are; they are

Uses of ser

Use ser to identify people and things.

-¿Quién es él? Who is he?

- Es Felipe Díaz Velázquez. He's Felipe Díaz Velázquez.

—¿Qué **es**? What is it?

-Es un mapa de España.

It's a map of Spain.





Ser also expresses possession, with the preposition **de**. There is no Spanish equivalent of the English construction [noun] + 's (Maru's). In its place, Spanish uses [noun] + de + [owner].

-; De quién es? Whose is it?

-Es el diario de Maru. It's Maru's diary.

—¿De quién son? Whose are they?

-Son los lápices de la chica. They are the girl's pencils.

When **de** is followed by the article **el**, the two combine to form the contraction **del**. **De** does *not* contract with **Ia**, **Ias**, or **Ios**.

-Es la computadora del conductor.

-Son las maletas del chico. They are the boy's suitcases.

It's the driver's computer.

¡LENGUA VIVA!

Some geographic locations can be referred to either with or without a definite article:

Soy de Estados Unidos./Soy de los Estados Unidos.

Sometimes a definite article is a part of a proper name, as in El Salvador, El Paso, and Los Ángeles. In these cases, de and el do not contract:

Soy de El Salvador.

Ser also uses the preposition **de** to express origin.

¿De dónde eres?



¿De dónde es usted?



Yo soy de Cuba.

Yo soy de Wisconsin.

—; **De** dónde **es** Juan Carlos? Where is Juan Carlos from?

-Es de Argentina. He's from Argentina. —¿ **De** dónde **es** Maru? Where is Maru from?

-Es de Costa Rica. She's from Costa Rica.

Use **ser** to express profession or occupation.

Don Francisco es conductor. Don Francisco is a driver.

Yo soy estudiante.

I am a student.

CONSULTA

You will learn more about adjectives in Estructura 3.1, pp. 88-90.

NOTA CULTURAL

Created in 1998, LAN Perú is an affiliate of the Chilean-based LAN Airlines, one of the largest carriers in South America. LAN Perú operates out of Lima, offering domestic flights and international service to select major cities in the



Americas and Spain.







Unlike English, Spanish does not use the indefinite article (un, una) after ser when referring to professions, unless accompanied by an adjective or other description.

Marta es profesora. Marta is a teacher.

Marta es una profesora excelente. Marta is an excellent teacher.



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iINTÉNTALO!

Provide the correct subject pronouns and the present forms of **ser**.

- 1. Gabriel
- 2. Juan y yo
- 3. Óscar y Flora
- 4. Adriana

- 5. las turistas 6. el chico
- 7. los conductores
- 8. los señores Ruiz