

1.3

Present tense of ser Tutorial

Subject pronouns

ANTE TODO 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.

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
yo	I	nosotros	we (masculine)
tú	you (familiar)	nosotras	we (feminine)
usted (Ud.)	you (formal)	vosotros	you (masc., fam.)
		vosotras	you (fem., fam.)
		ustedes (Uds.)	you
él	he	ellos	they (masc.)
ella	she	ellas	they (fem.)

¡LENGUA VIVA!

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



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.

The present tense of ser

ANTE TODO

In **Contextos** and **Fotonovela**, you have already used several present-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 (to be)			
SINGULAR FORMS	yo	soy	<i>I am</i>
	tú	eres	<i>you are (fam.)</i>
	Ud./él/ella	es	<i>you are (form.); he/she is</i>
PLURAL FORMS	nosotros/as	somos	<i>we are</i>
	vosotros/as	sois	<i>you are (fam.)</i>
	Uds./ellos/ellas	son	<i>you are; they are</i>

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.

Es Marissa.



Es una maleta.



- **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 **la**, **las**, or **los**.

—**Es** la computadora **del** conductor.
It's the driver's computer.

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

¡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 Angeles**. 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?



Yo soy de Wisconsin.

¿De dónde es usted?



Yo soy de Cuba.

—¿**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.

► 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.

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.



recursos

- WB pp. 5–6
- LM p. 5
- vhcentral.com Lección 1

¡INTÉNTALO!

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

- | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. Gabriel | <u>él</u> | <u>es</u> | 5. las turistas | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Juan y yo | _____ | _____ | 6. el chico | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Óscar y Flora | _____ | _____ | 7. los conductores | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Adriana | _____ | _____ | 8. los señores Ruiz | _____ | _____ |