

Ser and Estar: Part II

In the previous lesson you learned the fundamental difference between *ser* and *estar* - essence or condition. The examples used the verbs in conjunction with adjectives to clearly illustrate this point. In practice, *ser* and *estar* are not always used with adjectives, nor is it always easy for the non-native speaker to choose between the two verbs. Therefore, it is extremely useful to learn some concrete rules for deciding when to use *ser* or *estar*. This lesson examines some common uses for the verb *ser*.

Ser is used to express the hour, day, and date.

- ¿Qué hora **es**? What time is it?
- Son** las dos It's two o'clock.
- ¿Qué día **es** hoy? What day is today?
- Hoy **es** lunes Today's Monday.
- ¿Qué fecha **es** hoy? What's the date today?
- Es** el cinco de mayo It's May fifth.

Ser is used to express place of origin.

- ¿De dónde **eres** tú? Where are you from?
- Soy** de Colombia I'm from Colombia.

Ser is used to express occupation.

- ¿Cuál **es** tu trabajo? What do you do?
- Soy** carpintero I'm a carpenter.

Ser is used to express nationality.

- ¿**Es** ella puertorriqueña? Is she Puerto Rican?
- No, **es** guatemalteca No, she's Guatemalan.

Ser is used to express religious or political affiliation.

- ¿**Son** los García bautistas? Are the Garcias Baptists?
- No, **son** católicos No, they're Catholics.
- ¿**Es** el gobierno socialista? Is the government socialist?
- No, **es** comunista No, it's communist.

Ser is used to express the material something is made of.

- ¿De qué material **es** la mesa? What's the table made of?
- Es** de madera It's made of wood.

Ser is used to express possession.

- ¿De quién **es** la pluma? Whose pen is it?
- Es** de Emilio It's Emilio's.

Ser is used to express the relationship of one person to another.

- ¿Quién **es** Rogelio? Who is Roger?
- Es** el esposo de Marta He's Martha's husband.

Ser is used with certain impersonal expressions.

Es importante practicar cada día It's important to practice every day.

Es necesario hablar mucho..... It's necessary to speak a lot.

Ser is used to tell where an event is taking place.

La película **es** en el cine..... The movie is at the theatre.

La fiesta **es** en el club Fantástico The party is in the Fantastic Club.

Ser is used with adjectives to express inherent, or essential qualities.

Miguel **es** un hombre sincero Mike is a sincere man.

También **es** guapo..... He's also handsome.

Let's review. Ser is used to express:

the hour, day, and date

place of origin

occupation

nationality

religious or political affiliation

the material something is made of

possession

relationship of one person to another

certain impersonal expressions

where an event is taking place

essential qualities

Let's add another flashcard:

Verb Flashcards

8. Uses of ser

the hour, day, and date

place of origin

occupation

nationality

religious or political affiliation

the material something is made of

possession

relationship of one person to another

certain impersonal expressions

where an event is taking place

essential qualities