

1.3 Present tense of **ser**



Ser

To be is the question

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The present tense of **ser**

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 the following chart.

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The verb ser (*to be*)

SINGULAR FORMS

yo	soy	<i>I am</i>
tú	eres	<i>you are</i> (fam.)
Ud./él/ella	es	<i>you are</i> (form.); <i>he/she is</i>

PLURAL FORMS

nosotros/as	somos	<i>we are</i>
vosotros/as	sois	<i>you are</i> (fam.)
Uds./ellos/ellas	son	<i>you are</i> (form.); <i>they are</i>

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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.

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- **Ser** also expresses possession, with the preposition **de**. There is no Spanish equivalent of the English construction apostrophe & S to show possession. Example: [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.

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- When **de** is followed by the article **el**, the two combine to form the contraction **del**.
- **De** does *not* form with the articles **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.

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

¿De dónde eres?



Yo soy de Wisconsin.

¿De dónde es usted?



Yo soy de Cuba.

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—¿**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.

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

Don Francisco **es conductor**.

Don Francisco is a driver.

Yo **soy estudiante**.

I am a student.

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- 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.