

Talking about places and locations [2/2]

- Present tense: 'ser' (1st & 3rd plural) for permanent traits
- Adjective agreement
- Using 'son' and 'están' to describe a place



La fonética

[que]

porque



| | Word | English meaning |
|----|-----------|---------------------------|
| 1 | somos | we are (permanent trait) |
| 2 | son | they are permanent trait) |
| 3 | oscuro | dark |
| 4 | feliz | happy |
| 5 | moreno | dark-skinned |
| 6 | aburrido | boring |
| 7 | alegre | cheerful |
| 8 | tranquilo | quiet, calm |
| 9 | precioso | beautiful |
| 10 | limpio | clean |



Ser and estar

In Spanish there are two verbs for 'to be': **estar** and **ser**.

We use **ser** to describe traits and **estar** to describe temporary states.

Compare:

Somos tranquilos.

Estamos tranquilos.

☐ We are calm (in general).

☐ We are calm (at the moment).

ser

[to be | being – for traits]

somos

[we are – for traits]



Ser: Using 'somos' and 'son'

Use the verb '**ser**' to talk about **permanent traits**.

somos

To say 'we are' when referring to **a permanent trait** we use '**somos**'.

Somos tranquilos.

We are quiet/calm (people)

son

To say 'they are' when referring to **a permanent trait** we use we use '**son**'.

Son tranquilos.

They are quiet/calm (people).



Plural adjective agreement

Remember that adjectives need to match the noun they refer to:

Compare: **Masculine nouns**

el banco es antiguo**o**.

los bancos son antigu**os**.

Feminine nouns

la tienda es pequeñ**a**.

las tiendas son pequeñ**as**.

Note that adjectives ending in -e add -**s** in the plural, but don't change for gender. E.g.,

el papel es interesante → los papele**s** son interesant**e**s.



Ser & estar: Using 'están' and 'son' for descriptions

son

To say '**they are**' when referring to **a permanent trait** we use '**son**'.

Las calles **son** tranquilas.

The streets are quiet/calm.

están

To say '**they are**' with a place or **location**, we use '**están**'.

Están *en el este*.

They are in the east.



Respuestas

1. To say 'we are' when referring to a permanent trait we use **___ somos ___**.
2. To say 'they are' with a place or location, we use **___ están ___**.
3. *In the sentence 'Son tranquilos', we use 'son' because we are describing...*

a) a permanent trait

 b) a location
4. Choose the correct adjective: 'Las personas son _____'.

a) alegres

 b) aburridos
- 5) Feliz means 'happy'. In the plural form, the spelling changes to **felices**.

