

**Spanish**

# **Describing people [2 / 2]**

## **- in general and right now**

Señorita Correa



**olvidar**

[to  
forget]

**solo**

[alone]

**[o]**

**yo**

**poco**

[little, few]

**dos**

**con**



**¿Está bien?**  
**(Is that ok?)**

**Está bien.**  
**(It is ok.)**

	Word	English meaning
1	ser	to be
2	soy	I am
3	eres	you are
4	es	s/he is
5	alto	tall
6	bajo	short
7	alegre	cheerful
8	feliz	happy
9	simpático	nice
10	guapo	good looking



# SER and ESTAR ('I am')

In Spanish, there are two ways to say 'I am': **estoy** and **soy**

**Use 'estoy' for temporary state/mood.**

**Use 'soy' for permanent traits.**

I am active (trait).

Soy activo/a.

I am nervous (state).

Estoy nervioso/a.

To translate 'estar',  
English often uses a  
verb with -ing: e.g.  
'I'm *feeling* nervous'.



# Using the negative 'no'

In Spanish, to say how people are or *are not*, we put '**no**' **before** the **verb**.  
This makes a negative.

Example :

Estoy feliz.	I am happy.
<b>No</b> estoy feliz.	I <b>am not</b> happy.

This works for any verb and any person (e.g., I, you, s/he).

Eres bajo.	You are short.
<b>No</b> eres bajo.	You <b>aren't</b> short.



# SER and ESTAR ('you are')

In Spanish, there are two ways to say 'you are': estás and eres

**Use 'estás' for temporary state/mood.**

**Use 'eres' for permanent traits.**

You are famous (trait).

Eres famoso/a.

You are looking serious (state).

Estás serio/a.



# SER and ESTAR ('s/he is')

There are two ways to say 's/he is': está and es.

**Use 'está' for location and temporary state/mood.**

**Use 'es' for permanent traits.**

She is happy (now).                      Está feliz.

She is happy (in general). Es feliz.

**¿Cómo se dice en inglés?**

¿Cómo está?                      How is she?

¿Cómo es?                      What is she like?



# Asking yes / no questions

In English, when we ask a question we swap the subject and verb:

**The girl is** happy.

**Is the girl** happy?

La chica está feliz.

**¿La chica está feliz?**



# Yes/no questions

In Spanish, change a statement into a question by raising your voice at the end:

**Statement**

Eres alegre. You are cheerful.

**Question**

¿Eres alegre? Are you cheerful?

In Spanish, we pay attention to the question marks in writing and the intonation in speaking to know whether it is a question.



# Learning Summary: SER y ESTAR

1. Spanish has two verbs meaning ‘ to be ’
2. Use está to say ‘*s/he is*’ in a place.
3. Soy means ‘*I am*’ (trait).
4. To ask ‘*How are you (today)?*’, say:  
¿Cómo estás?
5. ‘*She is (generally) happy*’ is:  
Es feliz.

