

Spanish

Describing people [3/3] Worksheet

- Using *ser* and *estar* in 3rd person plural
- Negation: *ni...ni...*, *nunca*, *tampoco* and *nadie*

Señorita Allinson



La fonética

The vowel [u] **merges** with [a], [e] and [o] to make a single syllable. This is a 'weak' vowel.

1

antigu o

Because the [u] is 'gliding' into the next vowel, it sounds like a [w]!

2

agu antar

3

g u ardar

4

lengu a



SER and ESTAR

In Spanish, there are two ways to say 'they are': **son** and **están**.
Use '**están**' to describe a temporary state and '**son**' to describe permanent attributes.

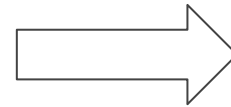
Compare:

Son tímidos -> They are shy (describing character)

Están tímidos -> They are shy (describing temporary state)

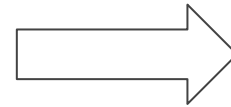
Look at how other present tense verbs refer to 'they'.

Llevan



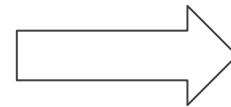
They wear

Tienen



They have

Viven



They live

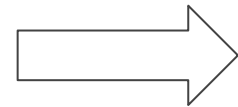


SER and ESTAR

The meaning of an adjective can change depending whether the verb we use is *ser* or *estar*.

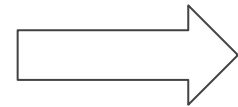
For example:

Son morenos



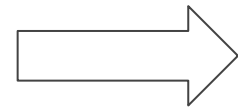
They are dark skinned/dark haired

Están morenos



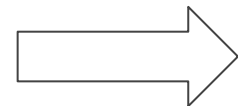
They are tanned

Son listas



They are smart

Están listas



They are ready



When you negate two words of the **same type** (two nouns, two adjectives, two adverbs) use '**ni...ni**', which means '**neither...nor**'.

No es **ni** honesto **ni** fiel.



*S/he is **neither** honest **nor** loyal.*



Tampoco also means '**neither**', '**nor**' or '**either**'. Use this adverb with a verb to add another negative detail to one you just mentioned:

No lleva barba, **tampoco** lleva bigote.



*S/he doesn't have a beard, **nor** does s/he have a moustache.*

Tampoco can also go at the end of the sentence, if you put **no** at the start:

No lleva barba, y **no** lleva bigote **tampoco**.



*S/he doesn't have a beard; and she doesn't have a moustache **either**.*



Nunca means '**never**' and needs to go either at the front of the sentence, as follows:

Nunca se impacienta.



*S/he **never** gets impatient*

Nunca can also go at the end of the sentence, if you put **no** at the start:

No se impacienta **nunca**.



*S/he never gets impatient **ever**.*



Nadie means ‘**nobody**’ or ‘**not anybody**’ and *usually* needs to go before the verb, especially if they are doing the action.

Nadie se impacienta en mi familia.



Nobody gets impatient in my family.



Respuestas

1. 'Son' and 'están' both mean ' they are
están '
2. Use Nadie to say '*they are*' in a place.
3. _____ means '*nobody*'.
4. True/False? Adjectives can change meaning, depending if they are used with ser/estar _____ Nunca lleva barba.
5. '*He never has a beard*' is: True

