

Spanish

**Talking about how and where
you are and were**

- Present vs imperfect *estar* and *ser*

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dar	to give
enseñar	to show, teach
organizar	to organise, organising
presentar	to present, introduce
probar	to try out, trying out
tomar	to take, have (food & drink)

la compra	shopping
la entrevista	interview
la fiesta	party
el paseo	walk
la visita	visit
la tortilla	omelette



Singular forms of *estar*: present and imperfect



'Estar' means to be and is used to express a location or temporary state.

Present

To say ***I am***, use ***estoy***.

To say ***you are***, use ***estás***.

To say ***s/he or it is***, use ***está***.

Ejemplos:

I am in Madrid to teach.

Estoy en Madrid para enseñar.

You are there to try (out) the coffee =

Estás allí para probar el café.

Para answers the question why/what for and means (*in order*) to

Past (imperfect)

To say ***I was***, use ***estaba***.

To say ***you were***, use ***estabas***.

To say ***s/he or it was***, use ***estaba***.

Note: *I was* and *s/he was* are the same verb form: ***estaba***

I was in London to organise a party =

Estaba en Londres para organizar una fiesta.

You were there to have an omelette =

Estabas allí para tomar una tortilla.



Imperfect of *ser*

-AR verbs like **estar** add -aba, -abas, -aba to the stem in the imperfect.

Ser is irregular in the imperfect tense!



Past (imperfect) **estar**

I was/used to be = estaba.

You were/used to be = estabas.

S/he, it was/used to be = estaba.

Past (imperfect) **ser**

I was/used to be = era.

You were/used to be = eras.

S/he or it was/used to be = era.

Remember!
Ser is for
permanent
traits.

Ejemplos:

On that day you were (feeling) calm =

Ese día **estabas** tranquila.

You were always serious. =

Siempre **eras** seria.



Summary

1. *ahora* and *antes* mean now and then / before in Spanish.
2. To say where s/he was in Spanish, use estaba, and to describe his/her general character in the past, use era.
3. Use the imperfect of SER/ESTAR to mean *was* or used to be.
4. *Estabas en la ciudad* means You were in town.
5. *My teacher was there to teach a lesson* is:
Mi profesor(a) estaba allí para enseñar una clase.

