

Ser vs Estar

(Beginning Spanish)

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There are two '**to be**' verbs in Spanish, **ser** and **estar**. **Ser** is used to describe the nature and characteristics of something (**permanent**). **Estar** is used to describe the current state of something (**temporal**).

- La noche **es** oscura. Night is dark. (in general)
- El cuarto **está** oscuro. The room is dark. (For example, the lights aren't working).

- Ricardo **es** guapo. Richard is a handsome guy.
- Ricardo **está** guapo. Richard looks handsome. (Maybe he is dressing up)

- La falda **es** roja. The skirt is red.
- El semáforo **está** rojo. The traffic light is red. (for the time being)

- Helena **es** alegre. Helena is a happy person. (in general)
- Helena **está** alegre. Helena is happy (right now).

Estar is also used to to when describing location.

- Mi amigos **están** aqui. My friends are here.
- La salida **está** allá. The exit is there.

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