

Ser y Estar

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Both *ser* and *estar* are translations of *to be*. Generally, we think of *ser* being for permanent things or characteristics that are a core component of something and *estar* being for temporary things. That is generally helpful, but some of the details are a little more complex than that. For example, both examples 3 and 4 for *estar* are things we would generally consider to be a core characteristic or a generally-permanent state.

Estar

1. **A temporary condition.**

Él **está** dormido.

He is sleeping.

Ella **está** feliz.

She is happy.

2. **Location and position of physical objects.**

La iglesia **está** en la esquina.

The church is on the corner.

Los lapiceros **están** sobre los libros.

The pencils are on top of the books.

3. **Marriage status.**

Juan y María **están** casados.

Juan and Maria are married.

Ella **está** soltera.

She is single.

4. **Life and death.**

El **está** muerto.

He is dead.

Ellas todavía **están** vivas.

They are still alive.

