



GRAMMAR

# "To Be" Grammar Reference

Complete conjugation with examples, contractions, and the soy/estoy comparison for Spanish speakers.

## "To Be" — Full Conjugation

### Affirmative / Afirmativo

I	am	→ I'm	<i>(Yo soy / estoy)</i>
You	are	→ You're	<i>(Tú eres / estás)</i>
He	is	→ He's	<i>(Él es / está)</i>
She	is	→ She's	<i>(Ella es / está)</i>
It	is	→ It's	<i>(Es / Está)</i>
We	are	→ We're	<i>(Nosotros somos / estamos)</i>
They	are	→ They're	<i>(Ellos son / están)</i>

### Negative / Negativo

I	am not	→ I'm not	<i>(Yo no soy / no estoy)</i>
You	are not	→ You aren't / You're not	<i>(Tú no eres)</i>
He/She/It	is not	→ He isn't / He's not	<i>(Él no es)</i>
We/They	are not	→ We aren't / We're not	<i>(No somos)</i>

## Questions / Preguntas

Am I...?      ¿Soy yo...?

Are you...?      ¿Eres tú...?

Is he/she/it...?      ¿Es él/ella...?

Are we/they...?      ¿Somos/Son...?



**Rule:** To make a question, move "to be" BEFORE the subject.

Statement: You **are** a student. → Question: **Are** you a student?

## ES The Big Difference: "Ser" vs "Estar" → Both = "To Be"

ENGLISH	ESPAÑOL	WHICH "BE"?
I'm Maria.	<i>Soy Maria.</i>	Identity (ser)
I'm a doctor.	<i>Soy doctor/a.</i>	Profession (ser)
I'm from Spain.	<i>Soy de España.</i>	Origin (ser)
I'm tall.	<i>Soy alto/a.</i>	Permanent trait (ser)
I'm happy.	<i>Estoy feliz.</i>	Feeling now (estar)
I'm tired.	<i>Estoy cansado/a.</i>	State now (estar)
I'm at home.	<i>Estoy en casa.</i>	Location (estar)
I'm fine.	<i>Estoy bien.</i>	Condition now (estar)



**Key insight:** English uses ONE verb "to be" for everything. Spanish uses TWO (ser and estar). As a Spanish speaker, you already understand the difference — English just simplifies it into one word. "I'm" = "Soy" AND "Estoy"!

## ⚡ Common Patterns You'll Use

### I'm + name

I'm Carlos.

I'm Ana.

*Soy Carlos. Soy Ana.*

### I'm + age

I'm twenty-five.

I'm thirty.

*Tengo 25 años. (NOT "I have"!)*

### I'm from + place

I'm from Mexico.

I'm from Madrid.

*Soy de México.*

### I'm a + job

I'm a teacher.

I'm a student.

*Don't forget "a"!*

## ⚠ Common Mistakes / Errores Comunes

✗ WRONG	✓ CORRECT	WHY?
<del>I'm doctor.</del>	<b>I'm a doctor.</b>	Need "a" before jobs
<del>I have 25 years.</del>	<b>I am 25 years old.</b>	English uses "am" not "have" for age
<del>I'm agree.</del>	<b>I agree.</b>	"Agree" is a verb, not an adjective
<del>He are tall.</del>	<b>He is tall.</b>	He/She/It = "is" (not "are")