

Ser Conjugation



Free Spanish Lesson and Exercises

To be, or not to be? That is the question. Or, if you're learning Spanish, the real question is how to correctly conjugate "to be." While there are two different words that mean "to be" in Spanish, we are just going to focus on one today: *ser*. (Check out our blog post for more information on how to conjugate *estar*.)

A Quick Review of *Ser*

Before we jump into the conjugations, let's review the usage of *ser*. Between *ser* and *estar*, the verb *ser* is more permanent.

- Use *ser* for physical descriptions
 - *Ella es alta.* - She **is** tall.
 - *La casa es grande.* - The house **is** big.
- Use *ser* for times and dates
 - *Son las 10 y media.* - It **is** 10:30.
 - *Hoy es martes.* - Today **is** Tuesday.
- Use *ser* professions and relationships
 - *Soy maestra.* - I **am** a teacher.
 - *Ella es mi mejor amiga.* - She **is** my best friend.
- Use *ser* for permanent descriptions.
 - *Yo soy feliz.* I **am** a happy person (always happy).

Whenever you're in doubt, ask yourself: is this something permanent or temporary? If it is permanent, use *ser*!

For a more detailed look at [ser versus estar](#), check out our blog post!

The Complete Guide to the *Ser* Conjugation

Since this is a complete overview of the *ser* conjugation, there may be tenses and forms that you are not yet familiar with. Don't worry! If you are just looking for the correct spelling of a certain tense, happy searching! On the other hand, if you would like to learn more about the different moods and tenses, click on the links to learn more.

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Don't forget to practice the *ser* conjugation using the exercises below!

Ser Conjugation: Indicative Mood

The indicative mood is the one most commonly used in Spanish. In the first three tenses, the *ser* conjugations are completely **irregular**, while the conditional and future conjugations follow the regular rules.

	Present simple	Past Simple	Past Imperfect	Conditional	Future Simple
Yo	soy	fui	era	sería	seré
Tú	eres	fuiste	eras	serías	serás
Usted	es	fue	era	sería	será
Él, ella	es	fue	era	sería	será
Nosotros	somos	fuimos	éramos	seríamos	seremos
Ustedes	son	fueron	eran	serían	serán
Ellos, ellas	son	fueron	eran	serían	serán

*Pay close attention to the past simple *ser* conjugation as it is exactly the same as the *ir* conjugation. Learn more about those [conjugations](#) on our blog post!

**Don't forget the accent marks! The *nosotros* form is the only one that takes an accent mark in the imperfect *ser* conjugation, and the only one that does NOT use a *tilde* in the future tense.

Ser Conjugation: [Subjunctive Mood](#)

Both of these conjugations are irregular, but there are a few things to keep in mind so they won't be difficult to memorize. For the present subjunctive *ser* conjugation, instead of removing the full -ER ending, just remove the "r" before adding the regular -ER endings for the present subjunctive. For the past tense, each conjugation looks a lot like the past indicative form of *ser* for *ustedes* and *ellos* - *fueron*. Change the "o" to an "a," and you have the base for the past subjunctive.

	Present	Past
Yo	sea	fuera
Tú	seas	fueras
Usted	sea	fuera

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Él, ella	sea	fuera
Nosotros	seamos	fuéramos
Ustedes	sean	fueran
Ellos, ellas	sean	fueran

*Keep in mind that there are two other subjunctive tenses: the future and another past tense form. The future subjunctive is hardly ever used, and the past subjunctive tense shown is the one most common.

Ser Conjugation: Imperative Mood

The imperative mood is used to give commands. For these tenses, you don't include most of the subject pronouns and their *ser* conjugations. Why? Because commands cannot be given to yourself (*yo*), to us (*nosotros*), or to people you are not talking to (*él, ella, ellos, ellas*).

	<u>Affirmative</u>	<u>Negative</u>
Tú	sé	No seas
Usted	sea	No sea
Ustedes	sean	No sean

*Many people and Spanish instructors may include a *nosotros* form in the imperative mood to express phrases like "Let's do it!" However, according to the [Real Academia Española](#), the *nosotros* form is actually in the subjunctive mood.

Compound Ser Conjugations

In addition to the above tenses, there are also just as many compound tenses in the imperative and subjunctive mood. There are two groups of compound tenses, one with the helping verb *haber* and one with *estar*. The conjugation changes in these tenses happen within the helping verbs while the form of *ser* stays the same. For these compound *ser* conjugations, there are two new forms of *ser* that you need to learn.

1. Conjugation of *haber* + past participle of *ser*
2. Conjugation of *estar* + gerund form of *ser*

The past participle of *ser* is **ido**.

The gerund form of *ser* is **siendo**.

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Let's see them in action.

- Yo he **sido** una maestra por mucho años.
- Hemos **sido** amigos por solo un par de semanas.
- Estamos **siendo** vigilados por los vecinos.
- Ellos están **siendo** echado de su propio terreno.

As you can see, the past participle and gerund forms of *ser* do not change with different subjects. Easy, right? Let's start practicing!

Exercises with the Ser Conjugation

Check your understanding of the *ser* conjugation with the following exercises! Be sure to check each answer with the answer key below. ¡Buena suerte!

1. Identify the tense and pronoun of each *ser* conjugation.

- Fui
- Serán
- Eres
- Fueran
- Seríamos
- Sé
- Sea
- No seas
- Soy
- Éramos

2. Conjugate *ser* in the tense given.

- Usted* - future
- Ellas* - past simple
- Tú* - imperative, negative
- Nosotros* - present simple
- Yo* - conditional
- Él* - past subjunctive
- Ustedes* - present subjunctive
- Ella* - imperfect
- Usted* - imperative, affirmative
- Ellos* - future

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3. Find and correct the error in the *ser* conjugation.

- a. Yo es ingeniero.
- b. Necesito que el correo sean más formal.
- c. Ella está sido observada.
- d. Es las 8 de la noche.
- e. Nosotros éran mejores amigos hace cinco años.
- f. Él fuera presidente un día.
- g. Esa semana fui la mejor de toda mi vida.
- h. ¡No sé tonto! (tú)
- i. Quería que ella fuero mi jefa.
- j. Pienso que esto serían más divertido.

4. State whether the following is *verdadero* or *falso*.

- a. The past simple *ser* conjugation is the same as the *ir* conjugation.
- b. There are only two subjunctive conjugations.
- c. *Ser* is a completely irregular verb.
- d. The conditional and future tenses of *ser* are regular
- e. *Siendo* is the past participle of *ser*
- f. There are only three *ser* conjugations for the affirmative imperative tense
- g. The *nosotros* form of the imperfect form does not have an accent mark
- h. In compound tenses with *ser*, the helping verb changes according to the pronoun
- i. The helping verbs that are often used with *ser* are *haber* and *ir*.
- j. To make compound tenses with *ser*, you use either the past participle or gerund form of *ser*

5. Fill in the blank with the correct form of *ser*.

- a. Nosotros _____ personas muy felices. (present simple)
- b. Ella ha _____ doctora por dos décadas. (past participle)
- c. Quiero que nosotros _____ mejores amigos. (present subjunctive)
- d. Tú _____ una madre fantástica. (future)
- e. Él _____ un niño muy travieso. (imperfect)
- f. Queríamos que _____ diferente. (past subjunctive)
- g. ¡_____ amable! (usted - imperative, affirmative)
- h. Ayer _____ miércoles. (past simple)
- i. Eso _____ muy interesante. (conditional)
- j. ¡_____ así! (tú - imperative, negative)

6. Translate the following sentences to English.

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- a. Ella es mi mamá.
- b. Mañana será un día muy divertido.
- c. Nosotros hemos sido estudiantes por 10 años.
- d. ¿Serás nuestro nuevo maestro?
- e. Serías tan amable de pasarme el documento.
- f. Ella quiere que yo sea más puntual.
- g. El proyecto de ayer fue muy difícil.
- h. Yo era un niño muy tímido.
- i. Estamos siendo obedientes.
- j. ¡Sean fuertes!

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Answer Key

Exercise 1) a: *yo* - past simple, b: *ellos/ustedes* - future, c: *tú* - present simple, d: *ellos* - past subjunctive, e: *nosotros* - conditional, f: *tú* - imperative affirmative, g: *yo, él, ella o usted* - present subjunctive OR *usted* - imperative affirmative, h: *tú* - imperative negative, i: *yo* - present simple, j: *nosotros* - imperfect

Exercise 2) a: *será*, b: *fueron*, c: *no seas*, d: *somos*, e: *sería*, f: *fuera*, g: *sean*, h: *era*, i: *sea*, j: *serán*

Exercise 3) a: *Yo soy ingeniero*, b: *Necesito que el correo sea más formal*, c: *Ella está siendo observada*, d: *Son las 8 de la noche*, e: *Nosotros éramos mejores amigos hace cinco años*, f: *Él será presidente un día*, g: *Esa semana fue la mejor de toda mi vida*, h: *¡No seas tonto!* i: *Quería que ella fuera mi jefa*, j: *Pienso que esto sería más divertido*.

Exercise 4) a: *verdadero*, b: *falso* - there are 4, but only two simple forms are the most commonly used, c: *falso* - in some tenses, *ser* is conjugated regularly, d: *verdadero*, e: *falso* - it is the gerund, f: *verdadero*, g: *falso* - there is an accent mark over the e, h: *verdadero*, i: *falso* - they are *haber* and *estar*, j: *verdadero*

Exercise 5) a: *somos*, b: *sido*, c: *seamos*, d: *serás*, e: *era*, f: *fuera*, g: *sea*, h: *fue*, i: *sería*, j: *no seas*

Exercise 6) a: She is my mom, b: Tomorrow will be a very fun day, c: We have been students for 10 years, d: Will you be our new teacher? e: Would you be so kind as to pass me the document, f: She wants me to be more punctual, g: Yesterday's project was very difficult, h: I was a very shy child, i: We are being obedient, j: Be strong!