

Ser v. Estar

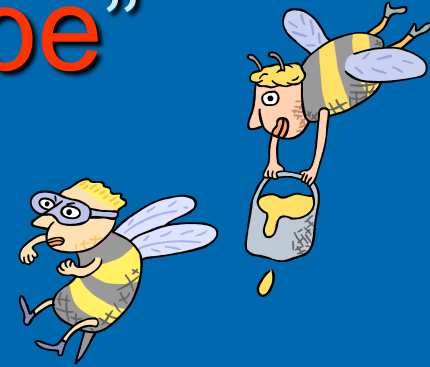


A Summary of Basic
Contrasts



“to be” ... or ... “to be”

¡Es la pregunta!



ser

estar

➤ *ser* + *noun* =
clasificación

➤ *Estar* cannot link
a noun to the
subject.

Pedro is a carpenter.

Pedro *es* carpintero.



ser

**ser + adjective =
essence**

Anita is intelligent.

*Anita **es** inteligente.*

The river is long.

*El río **es** largo.*

Lorenzo is good/bad.

(personality)

*Lorenzo **es** bueno/malo.*

(adjective)

estar

**estar + adjective =
condition**

Carmen is angry.

*Carmen **está** enojada.*

The water is dirty.

*El agua **está** sucia.*

Lorenzo is well/ill.

(condition)

*Lorenzo **está** bien/mal.*

(adverb)

ser

ser + *location of events*

The war was in Vietnam.

*La guerra **fue** en Vietnam.*

The accident was on the corner.

*El accidente **fue** en la esquina.*

The presentation is in the theater.

*La presentación **es** en el teatro.*

estar

estar + *location of objects / people*

The army was in Vietnam.

*El ejército **estuvo** en Vietnam.*

The car was on the corner.

*El coche **estaba** en la esquina.*

The bank is on Roswell Road.

*El banco **está** en la calle Roswell.*

ser

ser + *past participle*
= *action (passive voice)*

The door was opened by Ana.

*La puerta **fue** abierta por
Anna.*

The house was sold by George.

*La casa **fue** vendida por
Jorge.*

The aquaduct was built by the
Romans.

*El acueducto **fue** construído
por los romanos.*

estar

estar + *past participle*
= *state of being*

The door was open.

*La puerta **estaba** abierta.*

The house was sold.
(unavailable)

*La casa **estaba** vendida.*

The movie theater is closed.

*El cine **está** cerrado.*

ser

ser + de = origin

Origin: Gabriel is from Chile.

*Gabriel **es** de Chile.*

Material: The chair is metal.

*La silla **es** de metal.*

Possession: The watch is Joe's.

*El reloj **es** de José.*

estar

estar + de = role or activity

Lucy is serving as secretary today.

*Lucy **está** de secretaria hoy.*

Yesterday we were shopping.

*Ayer **estuvimos** de compras..*

Tomorrow we will be on a trip to the museum.

*Mañana **estaremos** de viaje.*

ser

ser is never used
with the present
participle!!

estar

estar + *present*
participle =
progressive

We are working hard..

Estamos *trabajando duro.*

We were sleeping.

Estábamos *durmiendo.*

Tomorrow we will be sleeping a
lot!

¡Mañana **estaremos**
durmiendo hasta tarde!

ser

ser +

*expressions of
clock time*

It is one thirty.

Es *la una y media.*

It was two fifteen.

Eran *las dos y cuarto.*

estar

estar is never used
with clock time.

Ser v. Estar

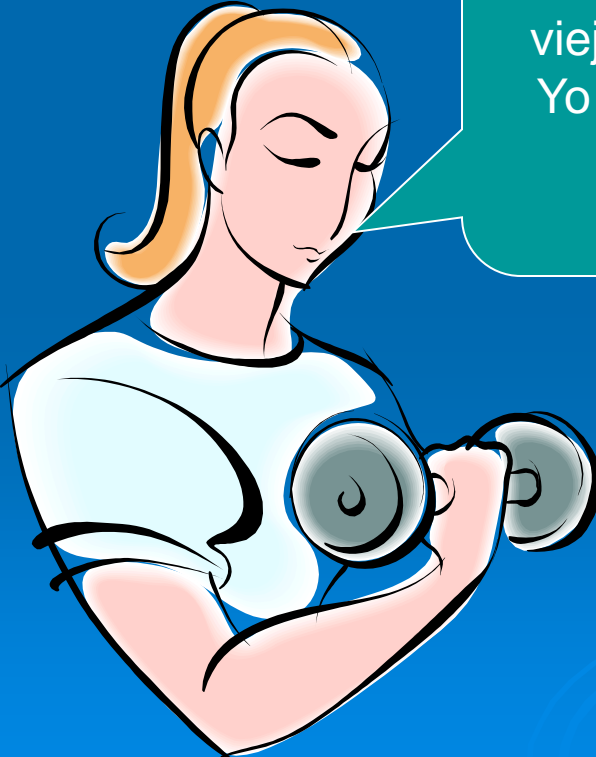
Permanent vs. Temporary

Can be very misleading...


The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the lower half, there are several concentric circles representing ripples in water, rendered in a lighter shade of blue. The text 'Can be very misleading...' is written in a light blue, sans-serif font, slanted downwards from left to right. The ellipsis at the end of the text is followed by a small, stylized ripple graphic.

Permanent vs. Temporary

There is nothing necessarily permanent about physical attributes...



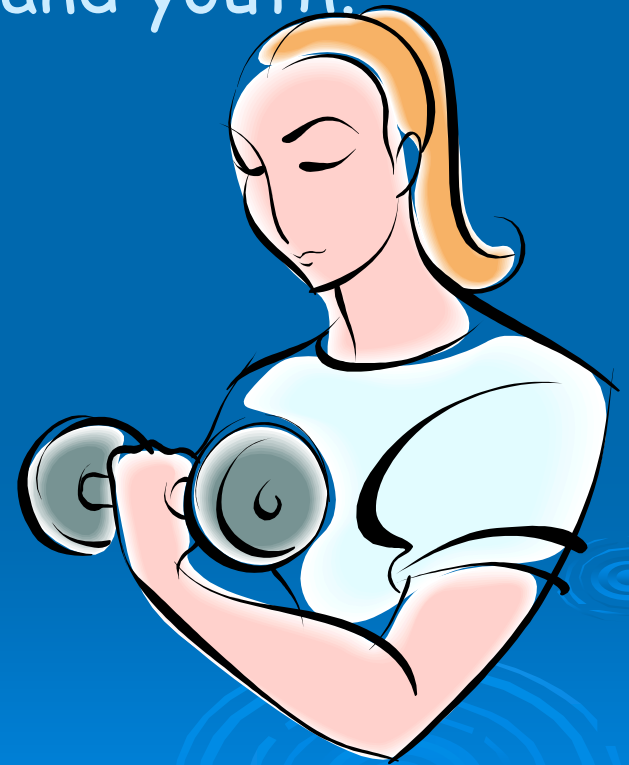
Usted es muy viejo. ¿Es rico?
Yo soy fuerte y joven.



Hola, guapa.
Tú eres muy joven.

Permanent vs. Temporary

There is nothing necessarily permanent about physical attributes... size, weight, color nor about social attributes... wealth and youth.



El señor Muñoz **es** viejo...pero no muy viejo.

Él **es** rico también ... pero no muy rico.

Ana **es** joven y muy fuerte.

Permanent vs. Temporary

These attributes are very *basic* and *essential* categories of description and *generally* take **ser.**

On the other hand... some very permanent things...like death... require **estar !**

