

Class 9 – ser-estar, direct object pronouns

In this class we will practice with the ser and estar, the two verbs that express the idea “to be.”

We use “ser” to express

Nationality or place of origin

Where or when something takes place

Profession or occupation

Inherent characteristics of people and things

Possession

The material of which something is made

Time/Date

We use “estar” to express

Location

Health and emotional states

Conditions that are the result of a process

Actions in progress now

Some examples of contrasting statements using these two most common verbs in Spanish:

Mi cuaderno **está** en mi mochila. *My notebook is in my backpack.* (location)

La clase **es** en el Narthex. *The class is in the Narthex.* (takes place)

La clase **es** a las seis de la tarde. *The class is at six in the evening.* (Time)

Hoy **es** miércoles. *Today is Wednesday.* (Date)

El cuadro de la bici **es** titanio. *The bike's frame is titanium.* (material)

Juan **es** de Argentina. *Juan is from Argentina.* (origin)

María **es** estudiante. *María is a student.* (profession-occupation)

La puerta **está** cerrada. *The door is closed.* (condition that is the result of a process)

Mi mamá **es** simpática. *My mom is nice.* (inherent characteristic)

Mi mamá **está** ocupada. *My mom is busy.* (condition)

Mi mamá **está** escribiendo un email. *My mom is writing an email.* (action in progress)

In this class we will practice direct object pronouns, which function like direct object pronouns in English (it, them). The Spanish pronouns require a little extra care because they are placed in the sentence **before** a single conjugated verb, and they must agree in gender and number with the objects they replace. The direct object pronouns are:

Me (me)

Te (you)

Lo (you, him, it)

La (you, her, it)

Nos (us)

Los (you, them – masculine or mixed)

Las (you, them – feminine)

Although direct objects can certainly be people (Yo **te** amo – I love **you**), they are most commonly things. Ex.

Carmen trae los pasaportes. Carmen los trae. *Carmen brings the passports. Carmen brings them.*

Eduardo compra las bebidas. Eduardo las compra. *Eduardo buys the drinks. Eduardo buys them.*

Marco lleva la mochila. Marco la lleva. *Marco carries the backpack. Marco carries it.*

Jorge tiene el cuaderno. Jorge lo tiene. *Jorge has the notebook. Jorge has it.*

In class I will ask you questions that have direct object in them and you will answer with direct object pronouns. Ex. ¿Tomas café? Sí, lo tomo. *(Do you drink coffee? Yes, I drink it.)*