

**Español Mundial Chapter 6**  
**REVISION NOTES**

**1. Present Continuous Tense**

The present continuous tense in Spanish is formed in two parts using:

- (a) The present tense of the verb *estar* +
- (b) The present participle.

*Formation:*

<b>SINGULAR</b>		<b>PLURAL</b>	
Estoy	<i>I am</i>	Estamos	<i>We are</i>
Estás	<i>You are (inf.)</i>	Estáis	<i>You are (inf.)</i>
Está	<i>He/she is</i>	Están	<i>They are</i>
Está	<i>You are (form.)</i>	Están	<i>You are (form.)</i>

**+**

Present participle, as follows:

*AR verbs:* substitute the infinitive ending –AR with –**ANDO**

*ER & IR verbs:* substitute the infinitive ending –ER or –IR with –**IENDO**

*For example:*

I am speaking = **estoy hablando**

Are you eating? = **¿estás comiendo?**

They are writing = **están escribiendo**

Two common present participle exceptions:

DORMIR > **durmiendo** = sleeping

LEER > **leyendo** = reading

So: The girls are reading = **Las chicas están leyendo**

The girl is sleeping = **La chica está durmiendo.**

Remember from Chapter 5 (weather expressions) the difference between “**llueve**” (it rains) and “**está lloviendo**” (it is raining).

**MORE ADVANCED:**

The present simple tense in Spanish (and French) is more flexible than it is in English in terms of usage: where the present continuous tense in English can **ONLY** be used to describe current, ongoing actions at the present moment (e.g. “I am studying in the library”) as opposed to the present simple, which describes habitual actions (e.g. “I study in the library”), in Spanish both the present simple and present continuous tenses can describe current, ongoing actions at the present moment, as in French.

For example:

- (1) ¿Qué comes? = What do you eat? (*habitual*) **OR** What are you eating? (*current*)  
(2) ¿Qué estás comiendo? = What are you eating? (*current*)

**Compare usage in French, which corresponds to (1) above in Spanish:**

Qu'est-ce que tu manges? = What do you eat? (*habitual*) **OR** What are you eating? (*current*). However, (2) above does not work in French (\* Qu'est-ce que tu es mangeant?)

## 2. Some common verbs used in the Present Continuous Tense in Chapter 6:

Spanish (AR)	English	Spanish (ER)	English	Spanish (IR)	English
Llorar	To cry	Vender	To sell	Escribir	To write
Hablar	To talk	Beber	To drink	Conducir	To drive
Charlar	To chat	Comer	To eat	Salir	To go out
Pintar	To paint			Subir	To go up
Trabajar	To work				
Estudiar	To study				
Bajar	To go down				
Bailar	To dance				
Escuchar	To listen to				
Pensar	To think				

## 3. Adjectives and agreement

As in French, adjectives in Spanish agree in (a) **number** (singular / plural) and (b) **gender** (masculine / feminine) with the noun that they modify.

For example:

- A happy boy = un chico **contento**  
Two happy boys = dos chicos **contentos**  
A happy girl = una chica **contenta**  
Two happy girls = dos chicas **contentas**

The default is masculine singular ("contento"), so adjustments are made for masculine plural, feminine singular and feminine plural accordingly, as illustrated in the above examples.

Of course, the default masculine singular does not ALWAYS end in "-o" (e.g. *triste* – sad; *débil* – weak); in which case adjustments need only be made when forming the PLURAL forms, by adding "-s", as in the following examples:

- A sad boy = un chico **triste**  
Two sad boys = dos chicos **tristes**  
A sad girl = una chica **triste**  
Two sad girls = dos chicas **tristes**

Learn the following adjectives (the default, *masculine singular* is given):

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>English</b>
Abierto	<i>Open</i>
Cerrado	<i>Closed</i>
Contento	<i>Happy</i>
Triste	<i>Sad</i>
Frío	<i>Cold</i>
Caliente	<i>Hot</i>
Ligero	<i>Light</i>
Pesado	<i>Heavy</i>
Ancho	<i>Wide</i>
Estrecho	<i>Narrow</i>
Largo	<i>Long</i>
Corto	<i>Short</i>
Feo	<i>Ugly</i>
Guapo	<i>Pretty</i>
Rico	<i>Rich</i>
Pobre	<i>Poor</i>
Fuerte	<i>Strong</i>
Débil	<i>Weak</i>
Lento	<i>Slow</i>
Rápido	<i>Fast</i>
Alto	<i>Tall</i>
Bajo	<i>Short</i>
Rubio	<i>Blond</i>
Moreno	<i>Brunette</i>
Gordo	<i>Fat</i>
Delgado	<i>Thin</i>
Pequeño	<i>Small</i>
Grande	<i>Big</i>
Enfadado	<i>Angry</i>
Cansado	<i>Tired</i>
Enfermo	<i>Sick</i>
Obediente	<i>Obedient</i>
Desobediente	<i>Disobedient</i>
Inteligente	<i>Intelligent</i>
Estúpido	<i>Stupid</i>
Bueno	<i>Good</i>
Malo	<i>Bad</i>

#### 4. Ser and Estar

*Formation:*

<b>ESTAR</b>		<b>SER</b>	
Estoy	Estamos	Soy	Somos
Estás	Estáis	Eres	Sois
Está	Están	Es	Son

There are many ways of learning the differences between the two verbs “to be” in Spanish. Generally, it is most straightforward to start with the uses of “SER” by category, which is how the information is presented here. But you may find another method suits you.

For purposes of revision of Chapter 6, the following basic distinctions can be made:

*Uses:*

##### **A. SER**

###### **(a) Identity, definition, inherent nature:**

**Soy** Pedro = I am Pedro

**Es** mi padre = He is my father

**Somos** hermanas = We are brothers

¿Qué **es**? = What is it?

¿Quién **es**? Who is it?

Paulo **es** mi amigo

**Es** difícil = it is difficult

Madrid **es** la capital de España = Madrid is the capital of Spain

La sangre **es** roja = Blood is red

###### **(b) Physical characteristics:**

**Son** altos = they are tall

**Es** guapa = She is pretty

###### **(c) Personality:**

**Soy** tímido = I am shy

**Es** simpático = He is kind

###### **(d) Origin:**

**Son** de Inglaterra = They are from England

**Es** francesa = She is French

###### **(e) Religion:**

**Somos** católicos = We are Catholic

**Es** judío = He is Jewish

**(f) Time:**

**Son** las dos y cuarto = it is 2:15

**Es** la una menos diez = it is 12:50

**(g) Professions and related activities:**

Mi padre **es** abogado = My father is a lawyer

**Somos** estudiantes = We are students

**(h) Location of events (“to take place”):**

La boda **es** en Sevilla = The wedding is (taking place) in Seville

¿Dónde **es** la fiesta? = Where is the party (taking place)?

**B. ESTAR**

**(a) Location (but note (h) above):**

Madrid **está** en España = Madrid is in Spain

Londres **está** en el sureste del país = London is in the southeast of the country

¿Dónde **están** los chicos? = Where are the boys?

Ella **está** en mi habitación = She is in my bedroom

¿**Estamos** todos? = Are we all here?

¡Aquí **estoy**! = Here I am!

**(b) Describing a current state:**

Mis padres **están** enfadados = my parents are angry

Mi abuelo **está** muerto = my grandfather is dead

Los chicos **están** enfermos = The boys are ill

Mi profesor **está** calvo = My teacher is bald

¿Cómo **está** tu tío? = How is your uncle?

Hoy **estoy** muy cansado = Today I am very tired

**C. COMPARISONS**

Sometimes it is helpful to make comparisons between (a) identity, definition, inherent nature (**SER**) and current state (**ESTAR**) to distinguish between the two verbs.

*Consider the following pairs of examples:*

1(a) ¿Cómo **es** tu madre? (i.e. request for info. relating to personality, nature, physical characteristics, etc.)

1(b) ¿Cómo **está** tu madre? (i.e. request for info. relating to current state, health, mood etc.)

2 (a) El café **es** amargo = coffee is bitter (i.e. the inherent nature of coffee)

2 (b) Este café **está** amargo = this coffee is bitter (i.e. its current state with no sugar)

3 (a) Tu novia **es** guapa = your girlfriend is pretty (i.e. her identity; physical nature)

3 (b) Tu novia **está** guapa = your girlfriend is looking pretty (i.e. current state of appearance)

## 5. Colours

Colours work in much the same way as the adjectives described in (3) above, whereby those ending in the default, masculine singular “-o” agree in number and gender with the noun they modify.

*For example:*

El libro es blanco = the book is white  
Las páginas amarillas = the yellow pages

### Remember the following rule when forming plurals:

*Consonant:* add “-ES”

*Vowel:* add “-S” (+ make adjustment for masculine / feminine)

*For example:*

Una camisa gris = a grey shirt  
Dos camisas grises = two grey shirts

Una camisa roja = a red shirt  
Dos camisas rojas = two red shirts

Un bolígrafo negro = a black pen  
Dos bolígrafos negros = two black pens

### NOTE:

(1) The word colour “color” in Spanish is masculine – and the adjective (colour) must agree in gender with the noun:

So: Una **camisa roja** *BUT* una camisa de **color rojo**

(2) Some colours in Spanish are invariable: rosa, lila, naranja and are normally used to describe nouns using the formula above (i.e. “de color rosa”; “de color naranja”).

Spanish	English
Azul	Blue
Rojo	Red
Amarillo	Yellow
Blanco	White
Negro	Black
Marrón ( <i>loses accent in plural</i> )	Brown
Verde	Green
Gris	Grey
Rosa	Pink
Lila	Lilac
Naranja	Orange

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