



Spanish In Mexico Notes: 1-2 Describing People

Through our interactions with the barman at Chucho el Roto, we practiced three singular conjugations of *ser* (to be). *Ser* is used to express the following concepts:

1. To describe what someone or something is.
Ex: Martin **es** un profesor de español.
2. To say where someone or something is from.
Ex: Ibis **es** de Venezuela.
3. To describe possession.
Ex: El libro **es** de Jennifer.
4. To describe a person or thing.
Ex: Carolina **es** muy simpática.

The five conjugations for *ser* are:

yo	soy	nosotros	somos
Tú	eres		
él/ella/ud.	es	ellos/ellas/uds.	son

For example:

Soy alto. – I am tall.

Tú **eres** de Puerto Vallarta. – You are from Puerto Vallarta.

El libro **es** de Jennifer. – The book is Jennifer's.

Somos altos. – We are tall.

Son estudiantes. – They are students.

Additional Information:

In Spanish, there are eight commonly used subject pronouns.

Yo – I	Nosotros – We
Tú – You	Vosotros – You all
Usted (Ud.) – You	Ustedes (Uds.) – You all
El/Ella – He/She	Ellos/Ellas – They

In Spanish, there are both informal and formal ways of addressing a person. The informal 2nd person singular subject pronoun *tú* is used for friends, coworkers, family and young

children. The formal 2nd person singular subject pronoun *usted* is used for someone you've just met or someone to whom you would like to show respect. In some parts of the Spanish speaking world, *usted* is used very frequently, while in other areas, *tú* is much more common. Despite this, both are universally used and understood.

The 2nd person plural pronoun *vosotros* is informal, but it is only used in Spain. In Latin America, the word *ustedes* is used in all situations. Meanwhile, in Spain, *Uds.* is only used in formal situations. Because the *vosotros* form of verbs is not typically used in Mexico or California, it will not be covered in the Connect18 curriculum.

Since verbs are conjugated differently for each subject pronoun, it is common to leave out the subject pronoun if the subject is understood. For example, to say "I am from California" you can say:

Yo soy de California.

or you can simply say:

Soy de California.

Because the word 'soy' is the first person singular conjugation of the verb 'ser,' the word 'yo' is implied.

Vocabulary:

alto/a – tall
bajo/a – short
grande – big
pequeño/a – small
viejo/a - old
joven – young
guapo/a – handsome/good-looking
bonito/a – pretty

Extended Vocabulary:

el restaurante – restaurant
la chica – girl
el chico – guy
el crucero – cruise ship
la lancha – boat/ferry
la pirámide – pyramid
feo/a – ugly
la señora – woman
el señor – man

la casa – house
el hielo - ice