



Spanish In Mexico Notes: 8-1 Geography

As we traveled to San Sebastián, we learned about differences between *ser* and *estar*, two verbs that mean “to be.”

The verb *ser* is used to define things or to describe permanent features. Meanwhile, the verb *estar* is used to show location or describe temporary features.

For example:

El hombre **es** alto. – The man **is** tall. (describing permanent features)

La manzana **es** un tipo de fruta. – An apple **is** a type of fruit. (definition)

Mi casa **está** en Miami. – My house **is** in Miami. (location)

La mujer **está** enojada. – The woman **is** angry. (temporary features)

To review, the present tense conjugations of *ser* are:

yo	soy	nosotros	somos
tú	eres		
él/ella/Ud.	es	ellos/ellas/Uds.	son

The present tense conjugations of *estar* are:

yo	estoy	nosotros	estamos
tú	estás		
él/ella/Ud.	está	ellos/ellas/Uds.	están

Additional Information:

To ask about permanent features, use the question *¿Cómo es _____?*

For example: *¿Cómo es Nueva York?* – What is New York like?

Nueva York es grande. – New York is big.

To ask where something is, use the question *¿Dónde está _____?*

For example: *¿Dónde está tu casa?* – Where is your house?

Mi casa está en Oregon. – My house is in Oregon.

Vocabulary:

el pueblo – village, small town
las montañas – mountains
la ciudad – city, large town
la costa – coast
la carretera – highway
el estado – state
el país – country

Extended Vocabulary:

la revolución – revolution
abandonar – to abandon
cerrar – to close
aislado/a – isolated
fácil – easy
las enfermedades – diseases
nacer – to be born
alrededor – around
el cura – priest
el tejón – badger
la cola – tail
la uña – fingernail
el zorro – fox
el venado – deer