

Ser vs Estar

Languages

Two verbs meaning 'to be', and the rule that decides between them.

SER — what something is

- Description — Ella es alta
- Occupation — Soy profesor
- Characteristic — Es simpático
- Time and date — Son las tres
- Origin — Somos de México
- Relationship — Es mi hermana

ESTAR — how something is

- Position — Está sentado
- Location — Madrid está en España
- Action in progress — Estoy comiendo
- Condition — La sopa está fría
- Emotion — Estoy cansado

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Es aburrido = he is boring. Está aburrido = he is bored. The verb carries the whole difference.

DOCTOR for ser, **PLACE** for estar. Location is the exception people forget: it is always estar.