

**Sex and Gender**

Many words mean "to be" in English, but in Spanish they have key differences.  
Remember: **NOI:TIEM:VELE:R**

• <b>BI</b>	<b>Being/Existence</b>	(to exist or simply)	}	Exist
• <b>OR</b>	<b>Origin</b>	(from the Argentine)		
• <b>OC</b>	<b>Character</b>	(I am like or because)		
• <b>TE</b>	<b>Time</b>	(from here, now, y ahora)		
• <b>OR</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	(and padre, una profesora)		
• <b>OR</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	(somos amigos)		
• <b>ER</b>	<b>State</b>	(to remain with state)	}	Exist
• <b>ER</b>	<b>Emotion</b>	(estaba muy contenta)		
• <b>ER</b>	<b>Location</b>	(el club está cerca del banco)		
• <b>ER</b>	<b>Feelings</b>	(le parece muy interesante)		

When the verb "to be" is followed by a noun, the verb ser is always used. In this instance, it might be helpful to think of the verb as equivalent to an "equal" sign, such as = "is". This type of sentence is always referring to essential characteristics, since the verb is "linking" what comes before the verb to what comes after the verb.

**Maria is a student.**  
**Maria = student.**  
**Maria es estudiante.**

When the verb "to be" is followed by an adjective, the verb used depends upon the meaning. When referring to an essential characteristic, use ser. When referring to a state or condition, use estar.

**El mundo está frío. The world is cold.**  
**Los árboles son verdes. The animals are big.**

When the verb "to be" is followed by an adjective, the verb can actually change the meaning of the adjective.

**El profesor está absorto. The teacher is bored.**  
**El profesor es absorto. The professor is boring.**

Distinguishing between origin, location, and "to take place."

To describe origin, or where something is from, use ser.  
 To describe location, or where something is located right now, use estar.  
 To tell where an event is taking place, use ser.

**Música es de España. (origin)**  
**Música está en Venezuela. (location)**