

# HDHS #1: Ser v. Estar

■ Ser and estar may be two of the most confusing verbs, both mean “to be”, but there are certain rules that will help you to know when to use them.

■ The forms of ser and estar are:

PRONOUNS	SER	ESTAR
yo	soy	estoy
tú	eres	estás
él, ella, Ud.	es	está
nosotros (-as)	somos	estamos
ellos, ellas, Uds.	son	están

■ Ser is used to express what something is, while estar expresses where or how it is. Here is a list of the uses:

SER	ESTAR
time	location
origin	condition
characteristic	emotion

You might hear Mrs. Villanueva refer to them as:

“Tic – TOC”

“The -TIONS”

TIME: Son las siete y media.

LOCATION: Estoy en la escuela.

ORIGIN: Yo soy de México.

CONDITION: La sopa está caliente.

CHARACTERISTIC: Él es alto.

EMOTION: Estamos alegres.

Others might find these mnemonics helpful:

