

HDHS #8: Pronombres Personales y Ser

- In English, when talking to people or about people, you often use pronouns like I, you, he, she, we, and they.
- Spanish is the same... with a few twists. Memorize the chart below.

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
I	yo	we (masculine/mix) (feminine)	nosotros nosotras
you (informal)	tú	you all (informal)	vosotros vosotras
he	él	they (masculine/mix)	ellos
she	ella	they (feminine)	ellas
you (formal)	usted	you all (formal)	ustedes

- Let's examine some of the differences. You might have noticed that there are several versions of the word "you." Spanish has a formal and an informal form of the word. "Usted" is more formal and is generally used to express respect. "Tú" is more familiar and is used among friends, classmates, relatives, or when speaking to a child.

USTED
a teacher
a boss
a stranger
an elder



TÚ
friend(s)
family
children
classmates



- There are also two versions of the plural "you." "Ustedes" and "vosotros" are used when you are addressing or talking about other people, not including you. It is the same idea in which you would say, "Hey, you guys!" Spain is one of the only countries where you'll hear the pronoun "vosotros" commonly used. In most of North, Central and South America, the pronoun "ustedes" is used for both plural forms of "you." For this reason, we will use the "ustedes" form exclusively.

- Did you notice that there are two versions of "nosotros" and "ellos?" If the "we" or "they" is a group of all males, use the words ending in -OS. If it is a group of all females, use the words ending in -AS. But what if the group has a mixture of males and females? Always go masculine! Yes, it's sexist... but who created languages? MEN!

- NOTE!!!** Did you notice that the word for "he" looks exactly like the word for "the?" Look a little closer... the word for "he" has an accent! That accent is extremely important because it changes the meaning of the word!



The Forms of Ser (to be)

yo	soy	I am	nosotros nosotras	} somos	we are (masculine, mix) we are (feminine)
tú	eres	you are (familiar)			
él ella usted	} es	he is she is you are (formal)	ellos ellas ustedes	} son	they are (masculine, mix) they are (feminine) you are (group)

The Uses of Ser:

Ser is used to express the hour, day, and date.

¿Qué hora es?	.....	What time is it?
Son las dos	.....	It's two o'clock.
¿Qué día es hoy?	.....	What day is today?
Hoy es lunes	.....	Today's Monday.
¿Qué fecha es hoy?	.....	What's the date today?
Es el cinco de mayo	.....	It's May fifth.

Ser is used to express place of origin.

¿De dónde eres tú?	.....	Where are you from?
Soy de Colombia	.....	I'm from Colombia.

Ser is used to express occupation.

¿Cuál es tu trabajo?	.....	What do you do?
Soy carpintero	.....	I'm a carpenter.

Ser is used to express nationality.

¿ Es ella puertorriqueña?	.....	Is she Puerto Rican?
No, es guatemalteca	.....	No, she's Guatemalan.

Ser is used to express possession.

¿De quién es la pluma?	.....	Whose pen is it?
Es de Emilio	.....	It's Emilio's.

Ser is used to express the relationship of one person to another.

¿Quién es Rogelio?	.....	Who is Roger?
Es el esposo de Marta	.....	He's Martha's husband.

Ser is used with adjectives to express inherent, or essential qualities.

Miguel es un hombre sincero	.....	Mike is a sincere man.
También es guapo	.....	He's also handsome.

