

Ser vs. Estar Practice Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Instructions: Complete each of the following exercises. For fill-in-the-blank items, write the correct form of *ser* or *estar* in the blank provided. For short answer items, respond in complete Spanish sentences. For the matching section, write the letter of the correct phrase on the line provided. Remember the uses of *ser* (identity, origin, profession, characteristics, time, possession) and *estar* (location, temporary condition, emotion, present progressive).

1. **Fill in the blank:** Mi madre _____ enfermera en el hospital central.

2. **Fill in the blank:** Nosotros _____ en la biblioteca estudiando para el examen.

3. **Fill in the blank:** Tú _____ muy inteligente y trabajador.

4. **Fill in the blank:** Los libros _____ sobre la mesa del profesor.

5. **Short answer:** Write a complete Spanish sentence describing where you are right now. Use the correct form of *estar*.

6. **Short answer:** Write a complete Spanish sentence describing your personality or a permanent characteristic about yourself. Use the correct form of *ser*.

7. **Fill in the blank:** Hoy _____ el tres de mayo y hace buen tiempo.

8. **Fill in the blank:** Ellos _____ cansados después del partido de fútbol.

9. **Matching:** Match each sentence with the correct reason for using *ser* or *estar*. Write the letter on the line.

Column A

1. ____ Ella es de México.
2. ____ Estamos felices hoy.
3. ____ El libro está en la mochila.
4. ____ Mi padre es alto y fuerte.
5. ____ Son las dos de la tarde.

Column B

- A. Location
- B. Origin
- C. Temporary emotion/condition
- D. Physical characteristic
- E. Time

10. **Fill in the blank:** Yo _____ estudiando español en la universidad este semestre.

Answer Key

1. **es** — *Ser* is used for profession/occupation, which is a defining characteristic of a person.
2. **estamos** — *Estar* is used for location. The sentence indicates where "we" are (in the library).
3. **eres** — *Ser* is used for inherent personality traits and characteristics. Intelligence is considered a permanent trait.
4. **están** — *Estar* is used for location. The books are physically located on the table.
5. **Answers will vary.** Example: *Yo estoy en mi casa haciendo la tarea.* — Uses *estar* because it describes current location and an ongoing action.
6. **Answers will vary.** Example: *Yo soy una persona amable y honesta.* — Uses *ser* because it describes permanent personality characteristics.
7. **es** — *Ser* is used for time and dates. Telling time and stating the date always uses *ser*.
8. **están** — *Estar* is used for temporary physical conditions and emotions. Being tired is a temporary state.
9. **Matching:**
 - 1. **B** — Origin (de México indicates where someone is from)
 - 2. **C** — Temporary emotion/condition (happiness is a temporary feeling)
 - 3. **A** — Location (the book's physical location)
 - 4. **D** — Physical characteristic (height and strength are permanent traits)
 - 5. **E** — Time (stating the time of day)
10. **estoy** — *Estar* is used with the present progressive (*estar* + gerund) to describe an action currently in progress. "Estudiando" is the gerund form of *estudiar*.